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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

### This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with five being the highest, what's your level of confidence in the ability of the CNMI economy to recover within the next three years?

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## INSIDE



### Star Pooch

First pooch Bo got star treatment and his first backyard romp at the White House.

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### US Spy?

Iran says its national security court put an American journalist on trial on allegations she's a spy.

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Jamie Foxx launches a crude attack on Miley Cyrus on his Sirius satellite radio show.

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Five-car crash occurs near As Terlaje Hill. **PAGE 3**

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## Slight uptick in March arrivals

But Korea, China markets still down

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Overall tourist arrivals in March 2009 totaled 32,908, a slight increase of 1.72 percent compared to the 32,352 arrivals posted during the same month last year.

Latest numbers issued yesterday by the Marianas Visitors Authority showed, however, that the CNMI

See **SLIGHT** on Page 4

## NWA flight makes emergency landing at Saipan airport

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Just a few hours after an extensive disaster drill at the Saipan International Airport, an actual emergency landing occurred at the site yesterday afternoon.

Saipan Tribune learned that a Northwest Airlines flight made an un-

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## High power cost shuts down WWII displays at AMP center

- Items returned to CNMI Museum, shipped to Guam
- Light-and-sound show also turned off

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Saipan's high power costs are keeping away from the public eye some of the most precious war and pre-war artifacts in the Northern Marianas, including an aviator helmet and goggles, a U.S. M1 Garand rifle, a Japanese type 94 pistol, watercolor paintings of the war, a dog tag, language books, and standard military gear.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Glass cases at the American Memorial Park's Visitor Center and World War II Exhibit Hall in Garapan are now empty of war and pre-war artifacts because of the raised temperature in the building to save energy.

These war relics are no longer displayed in glass cases at the American Memorial Park's Visitor Center and World War II Exhibit Hall in Garapan because the air conditioner is now turned off at night as part of cost-cutting measures.

Also gone were the light and sound ef-

fects in the museum to reduce costs.

The artifacts are now being kept at the CNMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan and the War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam where the climate controlled environment protects

See **HIGH** on Page 4

## Bird strike downs plane in airport drill



BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

A staged disaster response exercise at the Saipan International Airport yesterday featured a hypothetical airplane downed by a bird strike, complete with flames, black smoke, and injured passengers.

"Operation Bird Strike," which tested the CNMI's ability to respond to an emergency, was deemed successful in saving the lives of 160 passengers aboard a Boeing 767.

The exercise scenario: A commercial aircraft

See **BIRD** on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Emergency responders take the "plane crash victims" to the local hospital in this disaster drill conducted yesterday at the Saipan International Airport. Inset shows fire and smoke bellowing from the ARFF training pit.



## Local

# 'Use stabilization money to pay Retirement Fund'

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

Senate President Pete Reyes yesterday said he wants to look into channeling some of the federal stimulus money into the Retirement Fund.

Reyes said during a special Senate session yesterday that he would like to discuss with Gov. Benigno Fitial the possibility of using \$8 million in State Fiscal Stabilization money to help with the growing problems plaguing the Retirement Fund.

As of March 31, the CNMI government owes the Retirement Fund more than \$196 million in employer contributions, according to Fund comptroller David S. Demapan.

The CNMI is expected to receive \$43 million under the stabilization portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Of that, 81.2 percent must go to education while the remaining 18.2 percent can go to public safety and other government services, including assistance

for elementary and secondary education and public institutions of higher education. It can also be used for modernization, renovation, or repair of public school buildings and higher education facilities.

Fitial said he would use the 18.2 percent, estimated to be about \$8 million, to cover the payroll costs for government employees for the rest of the fiscal year. Reyes said he realizes appropriating the \$8 million to the Retirement Fund might not be a cure-all.

However, it would "definitely alleviate the situation," he added.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said he was not sure if using the \$8 million for the retirement contributions would be allowable under the law.

"We would have to look into it, but I believe the governor's primary intention is to use the funds to save jobs or create jobs," he said.

The NMI Retirement Fund's

unfunded liability has ballooned to \$584 million, mainly because of the local government's unpaid contributions to the pension system. That does not include the fiscal year 2009 interest penalty of \$953,478.64 since it is not yet the end of the fiscal year.



Reyes

During a meeting earlier this week, NMI Retirement Fund administrator Mark Aguon, along with board trustees led by chair Juan T. Guerrero, presented proposals to help save the pension system.

They include stopping contribution refunds and disability benefits, halting benefits to those found guilty of felony and other crimes, soft freeze on ben-

efits accrued at 20 years, as well as passage of a local bill that will shield the Fund from political tampering.

"It's a renewed call for the government to pay. They have to pay \$3 million per pay period or \$6 million a month," Igitol told *Saipan Tribune* during the Monday night meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

## Criminal penalty sought for govt's failure to remit Fund contributions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The chairman of the NMI Retirement Fund Working Group has introduced a bill imposing a criminal penalty against any government official for his failure to remit employer contribution to the pension system.

Under Rep. Ray N. Yumul's House Bill 16-236, any person who fails to pay or remit contributions to the Fund is guilty of misdemeanor, and upon conviction may be fined not more than \$2,000 and imprisoned for not more than a year.

"Any government employee shall have a cause of action against the secretary of Finance or head of each autonomous agency or public corporation for the failure to remit the employer's contribution and recovery of any unpaid employer contribution..." the bill states.

Yumul, who is also chair of the House Ways and Means

Committee, said the government's failure to remit its employer contributions to the Fund created a financial dilemma that resulted in the Fund liquidating its assets to pay retirees their pensions.

The Fund's investment portfolio has since decreased due to the liquidation of assets and investment market decline.

Introduced on March 30, H.B. 16-236 states that the Fund's total assets are only at \$267 million, which is much less than its all-time high of \$540 million a few years ago.

The government has repeatedly failed to remit its employer contributions as required by law.

"The purpose of this legislation is to establish a criminal penalty and cause of action against a person charged with the responsibility of remitting employer contributions to the Fund but fails to make such remittance, and to require the secretary of Finance and heads

of autonomous agencies and public corporations to notify government employees in writing of any unpaid employer contribution each quarter," Yumul said in his bill.

As of March 31, the CNMI government owes the Fund over \$196 million in employer contributions.

Under Yumul's bill, the Finance secretary and heads of autonomous agencies and public corporations shall remit their employer's contribution concurrently with the employee's contribution within five working days following the end of each payroll date.

They are also required to notify employees in writing of the balance of their unpaid employer contribution, if any, each quarter.

Retirees demand the government to pay its estimated \$6 million monthly employer contribution to the Fund, fearing the pension system would go broke in just a few years if it doesn't get payments due it.

The Commonwealth Association of Retired Persons and the NMI Retirement Fund administration and board of trustees share the same concern about the pension system's financial health.



Yumul

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### TEACHER READ GRADUATES

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fourteen infant and toddler caregivers recently completed a 12-hour Teacher Read Story Sharing Course co-sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities' Motherhead Program and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care Program. Pictured above are 12 participants and their instructors at a graduation ceremony held at the San Antonio Manhoben Center. Front row, from left: Heddy Saguitan, Joanne Ordona, Elizabeth Capili, Helen Santos, Jocelyn Eusebio, Josephine Aldan, Tina Marie Alverio, Vilma Regidor, course instructor and Child Care Program director Maribel Lose, and Almira Manlangit. Back row, from left: course instructor and Motherhead assistant coordinator Bryan Manabat, Estelita Relata and Myrna Medina.



# 'Despite trial, Villagomez still lieutenant governor'

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

Although he has been attending his trial every day for the last two-and-a-half weeks, Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez continues to hold the position of second-in-command for the CNMI.

As an elected official, Villagomez does not need to take leave like other department heads. However, he could declare himself unavailable to serve, at which point Senate President Pete Reyes would assume the position of lieutenant governor.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said Villagomez has not been in the office since the trial began on March 30.

"I don't think he's at the office. I haven't seen him. He's been in court full time," the press secretary said.

The lieutenant governor also has not been present in the governor's weekly cabinet meetings since the trial started.

Villagomez, along with his sister Joaquina Villagomez Santos and former Commerce Secretary James Santos are on trial for allegedly bilking the government out of thousands of dollars with a series of needless chemical purchases.

In general, Reyes said, the lieutenant governor, like the governor, is on call 24-hours a day.

"If there was a CNMI emergency of some sort, like a volcano eruption, he'd be on call," he added.

Reyes said Villagomez is not required to attend the trial each day.

"He doesn't have to be in court unless he's cross examined or unless he's called into testify," he said. "He can just let the lawyers handle it. He probably wants to be there. I'd want to be there. I wouldn't want to hear it second hand. I'd want to see first hand what's going on."

The ongoing trial is why Gov. Benigno Fitial has remained in the Commonwealth. Fitial was scheduled to attend a Department of Interior-sponsored business summit last week with Guam Gov. Felix Camacho and American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono but decided to stay in the CNMI.

"Unfortunately, I informed [Office of Insular Affairs'] Nik Pula I will not be able to attend because I feel it will be a disservice on my part when my lieutenant governor is undergoing a court hearing," he earlier said.

Villagomez continuing to hold the position damages public confidence and the integrity of the Executive Branch, said Rep. Tina Sablan, who authored a resolution that would have created a committee to

investigate allegations against Villagomez and report recommendations on whether there was cause for impeachment. The House failed to pass the resolution.

Villagomez, under the Constitution, could declare himself unavailable to serve.

"Such a declaration would not automatically disqualify the lieutenant governor from continuing to hold the office of lieutenant governor, although it might provide grounds for impeachment under Section 19. The Legislature might conclude that this refusal constitutes ne-

glect of duty, since one of the principal responsibilities of the lieutenant governor is to be available to act for the governor in the event of absence

or disability," according to the Constitution.

Sablan said at the very least Villagomez should declare himself unavailable to serve,

because he does not need to worry about being impeached, as the House members have shown they will not look into impeaching him.



Villagomez

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## 5-car crash occurs near As Terlaje Hill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A crash involving five vehicles occurred along 16 Highway Chalan Monsignor Road below the As Terlaje Hill Tuesday morning.

Fortunately, no one was reported injured. Traffic investigators determined that alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Eric F. David said yesterday the crash involved a white Toyota Tercel, a white Toyota Corolla, a brown Cadillac, a red Nissan truck, and a beige Lexus.

David said the male driver of the white Toyota Corolla was found at fault for causing the accident.

David said the driver of the Toyota Corolla was cited for violating the traffic law that states that in no event shall any motor vehicle be operated at a speed greater than will allow it to be stopped within the assured clear distance ahead.

DPS received a call about a multiple car collision below As Terlaje Hill on Tuesday at 8:01am. Police officers and medics responded to the scene.

The police's preliminary investigation showed that the driver of the white Toyota Tercel had stopped on the inner lane, signaling to enter the driveway leading to her home.

The white Toyota Corolla, which was traveling westbound on the same lane, failed to stop and collided with the Toyota Tercel.

As bystanders and the driver of the white Toyota Tercel tried to push the Tercel to the westbound inner lane, an incoming brown Cadillac collided with the Tercel.

In trying to maneuver the Cadillac away from a head-on collision with the Tercel, the Cadillac swerved to the outer lane where a Nissan truck was traveling west. The Cadillac hit the Nissan truck. The truck had moderate damage to the rear left mud flap, while the Cadillac sustained extensive damage to the front left and right portions.

During the Cadillac-Nissan collision, flying debris from the Cadillac and the Toyota Tercel struck the beige Lexus, which was passing by. The Lexus had moderate damage to the left rear door and front right portion.

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## Alien worker files discrimination lawsuit

An alien worker has filed a discrimination lawsuit in federal court against his former employer.

MD Salam Khan, a Bangladeshi, sued Kalayaan Inc., owner of Mangkok, for discrimination, retaliation, and discriminatory termination.

Khan asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendant to pay him back wages, overtime compensation, and damages.

Khan filed the case without a lawyer. *Saipan Tribune* tried but failed to contact yesterday Kalayaan Inc. for comment.

The complaint stated that Khan worked as a kitchen helper for the defendant's catering services in San Antonio.

He alleged that he was hired as an hourly employee at \$3.55 an hour and was guaranteed 40 hours a week of work.

Khan said during the entire employment period, he was only allowed to work 40 hours or less per week and was never given overtime.

He said non-Bangladeshi employees enjoyed overtime work and compensation. The plaintiff said Filipinos and local employees were given preferential treatment.

He alleged that Filipino and local employees were allowed to eat company food provided by the defendant.

Khan said he was not given access to company food based on his religious belief.

He said his supervisor often teased him during working hours about his age.

Khan said his employer did not renew his contract, but hired a non-Bangladeshi worker after his termination. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## NWA

From Page 1

scheduled landing at the Saipan airport due to a "minor" damage found on the plane.

The plane was confirmed on the ground of the airport between 4pm and 5pm yesterday and was being checked by Northwest Airlines personnel.

Reports had it that the "emergency landing" was prompted by a minor crack discovered on the plane's windshield.

Over 170 passengers were aboard the aircraft and were believed to be stranded at the Saipan airport yesterday.

The flight, *Saipan Tribune* learned, was bound for Japan from Guam.

A call to the airline's station manager on Saipan, Daisy Sablan, confirmed the presence of the Northwest plane on the airport ground around 6pm.

"Yes, it's still on the ground...and we're extremely busy," she told *Saipan Tribune*, refusing to disclose further information.

She referred this reporter to Northwest Airline's main office in Guam, which has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry as of press time.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho, in a telephone interview, said that CPA's Aircraft Rescue Firefighters immediately responded to the Northwest pilot's call for an unscheduled landing at the Saipan airport.

He said CPA immediately alerted everybody and placed them on standby in the area throughout the "process."

Declining to give further information, Camacho described the incident as a "precautionary" measure of the airline.

He said the aircraft landed safely at the runway and was immediately examined by airline personnel.

Korea dropped 34 percent in February 2009 compared to February 2008.

MVA believes that the Korean economy, with its contracting domestic demand and worsening employment conditions, continues to go through a recessionary phase. Although the Korean won strengthened against the dollar to finish the month at 1,412.5, Korean purchasing power is still much lower than last year.

Meantime, Russian arrivals continue to go up, though it registered only 3 percent growth at 709 visitors last month.

"In addition to Russian outbound travel being down 30 percent, the buying power of the ruble against the dollar dropped 32 percent last month. That's a significant shift," said Tenorio, admitting that travel agents had also some difficulty last month confirming air seats between Korea and Saipan for travelers originating from Russia.

MVA said China continues its downturn figures in arrivals, with a 13-percent drop to 1,955, while Guam, the Philippines and Taiwan also registered fewer arrivals at 1,369; 143; and 2 visitors respectively.

Visiting cruise ships and military vessels boosted the "Other Areas" category of visitors in the CNMI. Arrivals from United States rose 73 percent to 2,768 while cruise ships had a 131 percent increase to 1,578.

MVA is anticipating increased arrivals in summer, with Continental Micronesia's announcement this week of double-daily scheduled charter flights from Narita to Saipan from July 18 to Sept. 23, 2009.

## Pioneer businesswomen to be honored at '09 Businesswoman of the Year Gala

**TAMUNING, Guam**—The fourth annual Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award program, sponsored by First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business*, recognizes businesswomen who have made a difference in the community and have greatly contributed to their chosen field.

This year, for the first time, First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* will be presenting Lifetime Achievement Awards to honor businesswomen who are pioneers in their fields, who work tirelessly in the community to improve the quality of life on the island and who

## BIRD

From Page 1

with student-passengers on board was approaching Runway 7 at 9am yesterday to land when a possible seabird strike caused the pilots to lose control of the engines, resulting in the plane's emergency landing within 30 seconds.

In the disaster drill scenario, the aircraft banked to the right and slammed into the ARFF training pit, followed immediately by a loud noise, billowing black smoke, and towering flames.

To make the exercise more interesting, the hypothetical aircraft was carrying 15,000 gallons of jet fuel and cargo that included a casket containing the body of a deceased man being transported back to his homeland.

Added to this was the force of the impact, which ripped the fuselage into three large pieces and several smaller parts and a runway that is littered with victims, debris, baggage and loose monies.

Upon receiving the go-ahead at the airport advisory service, airport officers immediately activated the emergency alert III procedures and Aircraft Rescue Firefighter crews responded to the scene.

Less than 30 minutes after the incident, over a hundred emergency responders were at the "crash site," pulling out passengers from the inside of the plane, treating those with injuries, and controlling the blaze.

ARFF chief James V. Diaz said the exercise is a requirement of the Federal Aviation Administration and is conducted at the Commonwealth airport every three years.

In 2006, CPA-ARFF got a ++A rating for the disaster drill and was commended by federal representatives for an "excellent" performance.

Diaz, citing the positive feedback from the drill's evaluators, is hoping for a similar—if not better—grade this year.

The 160 participants are seniors at the island's three public high schools—Marianas High, Saipan Southern High, and Kagman High School.

### 'For preparedness, upgrade'

For Jessica Babauta, 17, from Kagman High, the drill was the biggest she's ever participated in.

"It's important to know the basic skills and steps in saving lives. I am happy that I became part of this exercise and I can say this is my first time in this kind of situation," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that students learned to treat different types of injuries, from open wounds and minor scratches to serious injuries.

Benavente was just one of 61 seniors from her school who will bring home to their families the values and lessons learned in saving human lives.

The three-hour exercise, Diaz said, involved over a hundred responders from various emergency units of the government, including Department of Public Safety's police and firefighters, local chapter of the American Red Cross, Transportation Security Administration, hospital staff, Emergency Management Office, and the presence of two signatory airlines, Asiana and Northwest.

Rich Benavente, a firefighter for 10 years, was among the first to go inside the burning aircraft to rescue two personnel trapped inside. He said, "It feels

serve as role models for the businesswomen of today.

Three awards will be presented at the gala to Lagrimas "Ama" Flores Aflague, owner, Aflague's Dance and Entertainers Studio as well as former music director, Guam Visitors Bureau; Concepcion "Connie" Slotnick, president and chairwoman of the board, Slotnick Enterprises Inc. and Dolores R. Tuncap, president and owner of Flowers by Tand. **(PR)**

good when you know you saved a life."

He said it's not only the firefighters' responsibility to respond to a "need," but the community members as well.

Benavente described the triennial exercise one of the best ways to enhance their preparedness.

### 'Nurses, doctors stand ready'

Of the 160 crash victims, responders tagged 89 as walk-in patients and were transported to the immigration office; 41 individuals were labeled yellow for sustaining minor injuries; 15 were transported to the hospital for serious damage; while 15 were identified dead and labeled black.

According to a staff nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency unit, victims were admitted at 9:09am and cleared or discharged at 10:55am.

During disaster drills, all hospital staffers are called to active duty to enhance their readiness to attend to calamities.

"It's a big help for all of us here in the hospital because we can check our preparedness for such disasters," the nurse said.

Of the 15 admitted to CHC, two victims were referred to surgical, while one was admitted to the operating room and one referred to the intensive care unit.

The rest were cleared and treated for minor wounds.

Among yesterday's evaluators were representatives of CPA, TSA, DPS, CHC, and EMO.

ARFF chief Diaz said the "action review program" where evaluators' recommendations are listed will be submitted to FAA, which will make the final review and assessment of the drill.

## SLIGHT

From Page 1

continues to feel the impact of reduced worldwide travels, with tourist arrivals during the last six months—October to March—down 1.21 percent compared to last year's.

In February, arrivals were down 12 percent.

MVA said the slight increase last month is attributed to the 4-percent increase posted by the Japanese market, which had 18,852 visitors last month compared to March 2008.

"Although the March increase from Japan was only incremental, it was quite significant compared to declining travel trends happening around the world," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, adding that Japan itself lost 41 percent of its own visitors in February 2009.

"So in that context, it's commendable that the NMI was able to grow 4 percent from this market in March, especially with the termination of Northwest Airlines Osaka-Saipan flight in early March. With far fewer Japanese traveling abroad compared to last March, it helps that we promote the Northern Marianas as a quick, short-haul destination," he added.

MVA, however, noted that arrivals from Korea's primary markets recorded fifth straight month of double-digit declines. Records show that the CNMI accommodated only 5,532 Korean travelers last month, translating to a 23 percent decline in the market.

Overall, outbound departures from

## HIGH

From Page 1

them from damage.

"Due to the increased cost of electricity, American Memorial Park has raised the temperature in the Visitor Center, and turns off the air conditioners at night. Our artifacts have to be kept at a certain temperature and relative humidity range that, with these saving cuts, we cannot maintain," the American Memorial Park said in a notice to Visitor Center visitors.

The notice added that the artifacts "will be returned to the exhibit once the power situation on Saipan improves."

Visitors to the exhibit hall would now see at least seven empty glass cases that previously contained war and pre-war artifacts.

One of the glass cases, for example, used to contain a U.S. standard issue gear and the dog tag of deceased U.S. Marine Virgil Adams which, according to the museum, "serve as reminders of the battles that raged long ago—and the cost of war."

Another glass case used to contain a U.S. M1 Garand rifle and a watercolor by battlefield artist Robert Benny, and a Japanese Arisaka Meiji 44 carbine,

a Japanese saber, and Japanese watercolor.

The Visitor Center and museum is also now closed during Mondays and Tuesdays "until further notice."

Between Wednesdays and Sundays, the center and museum are open to visitors from 10am to 5pm.

Robert Hunter, executive director of the CNMI Museum of History and Culture, yesterday said the artifacts previously displayed at the WWII Exhibit Hall are now in their "vault."

Hunter said the artifacts are the property of the CNMI Museum, but they were on a three-year loan to the WWII Exhibit Hall for display until the Visitor Center decided to return them to the local museum for safekeeping.

"As of today, there's no word whether they will still put them on display at the visitor center," Hunter told *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNMI museum also does not have plans at the moment to put some of the precious artifacts on display.

"Right now we don't have much display of war materials because there's already a World War II museum. But in the future, we may put them on display if we have special exhibits or if we know it would take much longer for them to be back in the war museum,"

Hunter added.

He said he has been told that the physical displays at the Visitor Center are beginning to show signs of "bubbling," which may be caused by a higher temperature in the area. "If that's true, that's a concern. If after two or three years with that kind of temperature, then other displays may be damaged," he said.

Kevin Guinto, 14, an 8th grader at Hopwood Junior High School, said he "feels bad" that new visitors can no longer see the artifacts.

Another student, 13-year-old Bryan Daria, echoed the sentiment. He said it is unfair that Saipan—a major battle place during the war—isn't able to showcase war artifacts. "We need something to remember the war by through these displays," he said.

The Battle of Saipan was a battle of the Pacific campaign of World War II, from June 15, 1944 to July 9, 1944. The invasion fleet embarking the expeditionary forces left Pearl Harbor on June 5, 1944—the very same day the allies launched Operation Overlord and the cross-channel invasion of Normandy. The Normandy landings were the larger amphibious landing, but the Marianas invasion fielded the larger fleet.



## VILLAGOMEZ TRIAL ENTERS 13TH DAY TODAY

# 3 'problems' cited in \$120,000 Rydlyme contract

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

## From the original 18, jurors now down to 15

The head of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Procurement and Supply Division said yesterday he did not sign the \$120,000 sole-source contract to purchase Rydlyme because of three "main problems."

As this developed, the twelfth day of the trial of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos saw the number of jurors down to 15, including three alternate jurors. The trial began with 18 jurors, including six alternate jurors.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson also denied Villagomez's new motion to dismiss the case.

During questioning by assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, Procurement and Supply manager Manuel Borja Sablan said he refused to sign CUC's \$120,000 sole-source contract with Blue Pacific because of three main problems.

First, Sablan said, the contract was completely in violation of procurement regulations because of conflict of interest. Joaquina Santos, owner of Blue Pacific, is a brother of Villagomez. Joaquina Santos' husband is James Santos, who was then the Commerce Secretary.

Second, Sablan said, he received confirmation from one of his staff, Joseph Fejeran, and other employees that they still have enough Rydlyme stored at CUC.

Third, Sablan said, Villagomez was pushing then CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero to get the contract done.

Sablan told Ramon Quichocho, counsel for Joaquina V. Santos, that he took extra steps to get quotations from other vendors of Rydlyme, disobeying then CUC executive director Guerrero's order. He said he did it for the best interest of CUC.

Sablan said even in the absence of the contract and the no-

tice to proceed the purchase, a supply of Rydlyme was already en route to the CNMI at the time.

When Blue Pacific delivered the product to the CUC warehouse, Sablan said this caused CUC inventory specialist Joseph Sablan Crisostomo to raise the red flag with the Office of the Public Auditor.

"They've been doing it in the past, they should know better," he said.

Sablan said the signatories in the contract were forced to sign it based on his personal conversation with those people.

He said CUC management specialist Grina Mizutani went to his office for the contract and that he found it "very unusual, very extremely unusual."

Meanwhile, David Lujan, counsel for Villagomez, asked the court Tuesday to dismiss the case because one of the

witnesses, Joseph Fejeran, was a potential juror, was oriented with the others, and may have talked with the other jurors about the case.

Attorneys Victorino Torres and Quichocho, counsel for James Santos and Joaquina Santos, joined in the motion.

Munson said there would be an evidentiary hearing where the court would inquire as to whether the witness had spoken to any of the other potential jurors prior to the trial.

One juror then asked to be excused due to a family emer-

gency. The prosecution and the defense did not object. Munson excused the juror.

Munson asked the jurors whether any of them spoke with Fejeran about this case before the trial. All jurors said they have not talked with any of the witnesses or potential jurors about the case prior to the trial.

Munson denied the motion to dismiss.

Munson also excused one juror after learning that she was related to one of the witnesses. The juror said she did not realize the situation until witness Manuel Sablan appeared in court. The court earlier also excused one male juror.



Villagomez

## Fernandez's contract hangs in the balance

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
Moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Board of Regents failed to reach a consensus whether or not to renew the two-year contract of Dr. Carmen Fernandez as Northern Marianas College president during a meeting Tuesday.

In a closed-door session at the campus' conference room that lasted almost two hours, members ultimately decided to first get the college community's input before making a decision.

Board chair Charles V. Cepeda said yesterday an evaluation needs to be conducted first before deciding on the president's contract.

Fernandez was hired on May 5, 2007, with an \$80,000 annual salary and \$800 housing allowance. She topped the original list of 12 candidates.

Cepeda said the board will consult all sectors of the college so they could participate in the evaluation process.

An evaluation form was passed out to the Faculty Senate, student council, and other groups and sectors in the institution.

Cepeda said the deadline for submission of evaluation forms to the board is on April 30.

"We need to make the decision on May 5," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the deadline is a day prior to the expiration of Fernandez's contract on May 6.

Cepeda said the "constitu-

ents' evaluation" is composed of questions and a numbering system.

"This is similar to what each board member is using in evaluating the president," he added.

Fernandez, prior to becoming NMC president, was a former senator in Guam and had served as a ranking official at the University of Guam.

Serving less than two years in office, her management style has lately come under fire from some members of the faculty



Fernandez

and students, resulting in the resignation of a board member and former president of the college, Agnes McPhetres.

Last month, three department chairs also filed successive complaints against Fernandez, all pertaining to issues of delayed hiring and improper hiring practices by the management.

Fernandez, in numerous statements, had reiterated that she stands strong for the students. She also made great efforts to submit all accreditation reports to Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

NMC, which has in the past been cited by the accreditation team for having an "unstable leadership and presidency," was placed on continued show-cause status. It is still waiting for a decision on its re-accreditation.

Fernandez succeeded Antonio Deleon Guerrero at NMC's helm after the latter retired in August 2006.

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# CPA posts lowest commodity traffic in 8 years

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Total inbound commodities recorded last fiscal year was the lowest traffic reported for CNMI ports in the last eight years, based on records of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Saipan Tribune learned that a total of 706,351 revenue tons of various commodities and materials were loaded to the

port in Fiscal Year 2000. In FY 2008, that number plunged to 389,338 tons—a hefty drop of 45 percent.

Between that eight-year period, CPA recorded 722,419 tons loaded at its ports in 2001; 673,131 in 2002; 648,250 in 2003; 673,653 in 2004; 642,584 in 2005; 553,269 in 2006; and 462,235 in 2007.

According to Saipan port manager MaryAnn Q. Lizama,

one of the major contributing factors in the decline in commodities is the mass extraction of the garment industry.

“There is a huge disparity between last fiscal year and eight years ago...and a major drop in the garment commodity category,” she told Saipan Tribune.

The World Trade Organization liberalized trade and broke down trade barriers in January 2005, opening the

United States to tariff-free garment exports from most countries. All of the CNMI’s garment manufacturers elected to leave the CNMI and move their operations to other countries where labor is cheaper.

## Peak period

Records show that the garment industry—and its raw material imports—were at its peak in 2000-2001 when it registered inbound figures of 202,893 revenue tons and 201,826 tons respectively.

In 2002, CPA recorded a significant drop in the garment delivery when only 183,375 revenue tons were received at the Saipan port; 162,389 in FY 2003; 161,800 in FY 2004; and only 123,758 tons in FY 2005.

The severe drop was evi-

dent also in the figure posted for garment materials in the succeeding years when it was down from 95,955 revenue tons in FY 2006 to a measly 62,173 tons in FY 2007.

The lowest ever recorded for the garment/material category was last fiscal year when only 21,772 revenue tons were accommodated at the island’s port.

In the 1990s, the CNMI was home to 34 garment factories, generating millions of dollars for the economy.

## ‘Tariff increase to avert default’

Early this year, the ports authority enforced a 90-percent increase in all tariff rates to avoid defaulting on its bond obligations.

“CPA floated a bond to give the Saipan dock an extreme

makeover and when all was done we had a responsibility to the companies that invested in CPA. The Port of Saipan was barely making its monthly dues, so to avoid going into default the executive director [Efrain F. Camacho] and the board made the decision to implement the increase in tariff fees,” Lizama said.

Since then, she added, the port has been able to consistently pay its monthly financial obligations.

“If CPA did not implement the increases then we would have gone into default and there would have been financial and agency ramifications,” she said, adding that the increase does not necessarily mean CPA is out of the woods but is keeping its hopes up for an economic turnaround.

## Family of newborn with open heart surgery seeks help

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Barely six days after he was born on March 26, Ethan Jerrell Ramos had an open heart surgery because of a hole in his heart and his left and right arteries were switched. Three days later, his chest was reopened to treat complications.

“After a few days of Ethan in a critical condition, with the grace of God, Ethan is recovering,” said his father, Edgar B. Ramos, who works for Docomo Pacific Guam/Saipan.

As of yesterday, the baby was in the intensive care unit of the St. Luke’s Medical Center.

The family appeals for monetary donation to help defray their child’s medical costs.

The bill is estimated to reach \$40,000, but the insurance cov-

ers only \$15,000.

“The family of Ethan is trying to raise the difference through loans, fundraisers, gifts from friends and selling of properties. We very much appreciate your help toward Ethan’s hospitalization,” said Edgar B. Ramos, who was information systems manager at Docomo Saipan from 2005 to 2007, and later moved to Guam but is still traveling between the two islands because of the job. His wife Juliet moved to Guam early this year.

Edgar and Juliet Ramos can be reached through eramos@docomopacific.com, juliet0521@yahoo.com or (671) 689-5059.

Those who are willing to donate may deposit the money to the mother’s bank account: Juliet Ramos, Bank of Hawaii,

0032-053807.

Ethan Jerrell Ramos was born at 6:44 p.m. on March 26. A few hours later, Dr. Meadows of the Guam Memorial Hospital noticed that the baby was not getting enough oxygen.

On March 28, the baby was flown to St. Luke’s Medical Center where he was further diagnosed by Dr. Charles Cuaso, a pediatric cardiologist, with patent ductus arteriosus and vertical septal defect.

In layman’s term, the left and right arteries were switched and there was a hole in the heart.

On April 1, the six-day-old child was operated on to correct the defect. The operation had complications and the baby’s chest was reopened on April 4. After days in critical condition, the baby has since been recovering.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS For Food and Other Concessions

The 2009 OCEANIA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (hereafter “Committee”) is responsible for the operation, management and administration of the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament. To assure that the Tournament participants and spectators are accorded adequate food and beverage, merchandise, and other services at the Tournament, the Committee hereby requests proposals from currently licensed companies experienced and capable of providing such services and wish to be considered for the following Contracts:

Concession Contracts to operate any or all of the following concession services: (1) food and beverage; (2) merchandise; and (3) other services as the Committee may later determine. The Contract term will be from June 19 to June 29, 2009.

The Committee will evaluate proposals and award a separate Contract for each concession service. Committee encourages proposers to submit proposals for one or more of the concession services.



The RFP Package will be available until April 24, 2009 during business hours at the Law Office of Michael A. White, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at the Conference Room at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 4, 2009 at the Law Office of Michael A. White, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan.

Proposers are required to pay a \$50.00 non-refundable fee for each copy of the RFP.

The Committee assumes no obligation of any kind for expenses incurred by a respondent to this Notice or the RFP package.

All inquiries must be in writing, and sent to Michael A. White at fax no. 234 9537 or emailed to mwhite@saipan.com.

## ‘A night of Bengali culture’



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Some members of the Bangladeshi community on Saipan pose for a group photo during their celebration of the Bengali New Year 1416 on Monday night at the Garapan Central Park.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Traditional and modern Bangladeshi music filled the air

as women, men and children in colorful sari ushered in the Bengali New Year or Pohela Boishakh on Tuesday night at the Garapan Central Park.

Bengali New Year, 1416 falls on April 15.

“This is an important cultural event for us. We get together to celebrate Bengali New Year 1416,” said Shirin Faruk, 39, who was in a colorful sari along with her family.

Members of the Bangladeshi community on Saipan ushered in the year 1416 with music, food and magic tricks.

Faruk said the number of revelers has dramatically declined this year as many Bangladeshis have gone back home due to the economy that forced businesses to reduce operations or cut down jobs.

“It’s a smaller celebration [than previous years],” Faruk added.

Rakibul Islam Minto, president of the Bangladesh Cultural Group, said they also awarded prizes to the winners of the volleyball tournament and a 600-meter run during the New Year celebration.

Md. Habib Ullah, secretary of the Bangladesh Cultural Group, said even though fewer than expected showed up to greet the New Year, they’re still happy for the opportunity to get together.

Representatives from the Filipino and local community also joined the celebration, which also featured a fireworks display.

**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147  
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
April 14, 2009

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Development Corporation Division (DCD) of the Commonwealth Development Authority thru its Chairwoman, hereby informs the general public that the DCD Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CDA Conference Room, Second Floor, Wakin’s Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

**AGENDA**

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**  
1. Roll Call  
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**III. REPORTS**  
1. Financial Report – DCD  
2. Loan Reports  
a. Approved Loans & Bank Guarantees  
b. Bank Guarantees Status Report  
c. Loan Status/Receivables Report  
d. DCD Performing Loan Summary/Delinquency & Litigation

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**  
1. Sy’s Corporation

**V. NEW BUSINESS**  
1. Borrowers’ Requests

**VI. OTHER MATTERS**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**  
Chairwoman, CDA Board of Directors





**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**  
**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**  
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



**NOTICE AS TO BOND CLAIMS**  
**2006-2007 CASES**

**April 16, 2009, first notice**  
**April 23, 2009, second notice**

Each of the cases listed below has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office. In each case, a final action has been taken by the Administrative Hearing Office. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been adjudicated or dismissed, and final notices have been published. Awards in some of these cases may be covered by labor bonds.

**COMPLAINANTS WHOSE ADMINISTRATIVE AWARDS HAVE NOT BEEN PAID:**

Any complainant who was awarded money damages in a case listed below and has not been paid should come to the Complaint Intake Section, Department of Labor, and fill out a declaration affirming that payment has not been made. Please bring a copy of the administrative order in your case and your entry permit card. A complainant who has not been paid has until April 30, 2009 to report to the Complaint Intake Section.

Alternatively, any complainant who has already filed a declaration under oath with the federal ombudsman's office may either supply a copy of that declaration or authorize the ombudsman's office to supply a copy together with a copy of the administrative award to the Complaint Intake Section.

Case number	Date of award	Complainant Family name	Given name	Respondent
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Abadilla	Ariel F.	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
LC#04-580	3/16/07	Africa	Nenita	Commonwealth GMT MFG Inc.
LC#07-238	12/3/07	Ahmed	Sohel	Kinship Enterprises Inc.,
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Alam	Kazi Masud	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Alam	Md. Shah	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#03-138	5/22/07	Alam	Md. Shah	Mirage Saipan Co. Ltd.
LC#97-325	10/18/06	Ali Khan	Md. Leakat	Edward A. Ayuyu dba Ayuyu Security Agency
CAC#01-093-06	6/17/06	Almazol	Danilo	Sablan Construction Co., Ltd.
CAC#01-093-06	6/17/06	Almazol	Danilo	Sablan Construction Co., Ltd.
LC#07-236	12/3/07	Ambrocio	Villamin Baing	Kinship Enterprises Inc.,
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Aque	Diosdado A.	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
LC#98-370	3/16/07	Arlay	Ailene	Madecat Corporation
CAC#99-447-12	11/6/07	Balasto	Melquides C.	Misamis Construction Saipan Ltd.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Balili	Lo Manuel	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Barbo	Wilfredo M.	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Barol	Peter P.	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
LC#07-123	10/1/07	Benemerito	Ortega Enrico	Seishin Farm Saipan, Inc.
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Bernido	Marlow	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#02-098-12	4/10/07	Bhuiyan,	Md. Nazir Ahmed	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#07-070	9/6/07	Cabalza	Lucille Sison	J.D.H Corporation dba MGM VI
CAC#06-144-11	2/27/07	Cabaya	Loana A.	Pantaleon B. Valenzuela dba Valenzuela Janitorial Services,
LC#03-257	5/14/07	Cai	Zhen	American Langente Corporation
LC#07-223	12/13/07	Cao	Ting Wei	Saigon Enterprises Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Casabuna	Amorsolo De Leon	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#06-144-11	2/27/07	Casuga	Juanita M.	Pantaleon B. Valenzuela dba Valenzuela Janitorial Services
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Cervances	Jose A.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#02-025-05	10/12/06	Chen	Bixia	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Chen	Jian Hua	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#03-34	3/5/07	Chen	Li Yi	BQF Services Corp.
LC#01-180	3/16/07	Chen	Miao Ci	Excel Corporation, Sang Ho Sohn, President and its Officers
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Chen	Wen Sheng	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Chen	Xin Zhao	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Chen	Ya Mei	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Chen	Yanqin	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Chen	Yao Mez	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Dabu	Juanito	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Dan	De Zhen	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#04-547	3/9/07	Datchanee	Loilong Wijitpan	Commonwealth GMT MFG Inc.
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Del Prado	Aurelio	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Dimatera	Eduardo E.	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Ding	Peng Chun	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#04-547	3/9/07	Dioneda D.	Terেসita	Commonwealth GMT MFG Inc.
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Drilon	Ariel Atayde	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Elayda	Ramon	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#06-144-11	2/27/07	Eloso	Rolando Dlc	Pantaleon B. Valenzuela dba Valenzuela Janitorial Services
CAC#07-05-0011	6/28/08	Enriquez	Ricardo Pescante	Erensia Inc. dba Naked Stallion
LC#04-521	3/8/07	Felipe	Josephine	Joo Ang Apparel Inc.
LC#03-462	3/1/07	Gaffar	Abdul	Sako Corporation
LC#04-219	3/16/07	Gautam	Kamala	Emilia T. Rios
CAC#06-105-08	10/18/06	Genobaten	Edgar	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Gong	Zhon Pin	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#04-298	9/20/07	Guo	Zhen Hua	Mirage Saipn Co. Ltd.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Guzman	Andres Teel	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Habibur		Net Corporation
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Haqee	Easha	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#98-079	6/12/07	Hossain	Anwar	Antonio Reyes dba BPS
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Hossain	Anwar	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Hossain	Atm Mozaffour	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Hossain	Babul	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#99-447-12	10/24/07	Hossain	Nur	Misamis Construction Saipan Ltd.
CAC#00-194-09	10/24/07	Hossain	Nur	Net Corporation
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Hossain	Shakhawat	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Huang	Bing Hong	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Huang	Jin Kun	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Ibanez	Nilo D.	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Inao	Welly Kilat	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
LC#04-617	3/16/07	Isidro	Romel C.	Angel's International School of Dance
LC#04-617	3/16/07	Isidro	Ryan C.	Angel's International School of Dance
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Jacela	Jonathan P.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Jacob	Jesus B.	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Jaman	Kamruzz	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#07-085	8/7/07	Ji	Ching Xiang	Jin Yang Corp., et al
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Ji	Ching Xiang	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#07-088	8/8/07	Jing	Zhi Qiang	Jin Yang Corp., et al
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Kiseo	Salvador C.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
LC#05-222	7/7/06	Laborce	Angelo Miclat	S-Won Incorporated
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Lacson	Bernabe R.	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Lacson	Bornabe R.	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Langit	Fidel Martin	Island Security Services Inc

Case number	Date of award	Complainant Family name	Given name	Respondent
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Li	Aing Feng	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Li	Denghong	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#06-224	8/17/07	Li	Fengchun	Jisoo Corporation
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Li	Qing Feng	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
LC#00-294	5/10/07	Lin	Fu Xing	American Kai Hua Corporation
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Liu	Aimin	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
LC#04-412	3/9/07	Liu	Shun Li	Marianas Fashions Inc.
LC#07-059	8/21/07	Long	Xiao Hong	K&K Corporation
CAC#04-019-03	6/6/07	Lu	Fang Hua	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
LC#07-222	12/13/07	Luo	De Wen	Saigon Enterprises Inc.
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Luo	De Zhen	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Macatantan	Armando S.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Magabo	Monina Arconado	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Maglaya	Raffie O.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
LC#01-175	2/23/07	Mallick	Niranjan	Saipan HWA Rang Corporation
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Mamun		Island Security Services Inc.
LC#04-771	5/10/07	Marquez	Melecia P.	Ned, Arriola S.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Masum	Md.	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Mejia	Domingo	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#02-098-12	4/10/07	Mia	Mohammad Shakul	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Miah	Dulal	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#06-270	12/19/06	Mohammed	Ali Asraf	Misamis Construction Saipan Ltd.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Mondal	Patit Paban	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#03-065	6/15/07	Nagpacan	Edwin G.	Bien Seiko, Inc. and Isagani Benozza
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Narayan	Sarker	Island Security Services Inc
CAC#04-029-06	8/3/06	Nath	Talijdkar Hari	Tasan Corporation, dba Ryu Lee Yeon Hee (President), Ryu Jae Young (Secretary)
LC#03-162	3/16/07	Obra	Renita J.	Pete Onni dba Kapitthay Restaurant
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Ortiz	Rosanna M.	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#96-560	4/12/06	Pagdato	Marticio G.	Filipina A. Sablan
LC#01-047	2/23/07	Pagdilao	Clarita	Mary Mini Mart Inc.
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Pan	Ping Fang	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Panalagao	Bernardito Jr.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Patricio	Joey P.	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CV#07-0017	12/17/07	Qian	Xiao Li	Grace International, Inc.
CAC#05-052-04	11/15/07	Qing	Xian Xu	New Saipan Development, Inc.
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Quirino Jr.	M. Gallar	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Rahman	Md. Habibur	Island Security Services Inc.ero
LC#03-044	3/5/07	Rahman	Md. Moklesur	Kinship Enterprises Inc.,
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Raper	George Billena	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Raquepo	Roberto	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#02-098-12	4/10/07	Rashid	Hamidur	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#07-145	12/11/07	Raut	Raja Ram	Cube Corporation, Jeon Chang Kook and Na Young Mi
LC#07-121	6/19/07	Rojas	Reynaldo D.	Cook N Sam Corporation
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Rondares	Wilson A.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
LC#04-797	3/14/07	Ruiang	Huang	Sako Corporation
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Sabugo	Alejandro	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#07-115	8/6/07	Saludes	Meriam Enriquez	Juan L. Evangelista dba Naked Stallion
LC#00-325	5/14/07	Samelo	Felizardo Naval	Manny T. Vilaga
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Santiago	Arsenia Duenas	Island Security Services Inc.
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Santos	Enrico P.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Sawnga	Arnel Homelde	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Sorrosa	Dante B.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Sun	Ya Fang	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Supati	Froilan Sr.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
LC#06-329	3/26/07	Taguibao	Emily Navarro	Cepeda, Sharlene
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Taiting	Fong Yan Yang	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#05-131-11	3/17/06	Tiamzow	Cecilia S.	Elephant Corporation and its Corporate President-Kim, Jai Hyun
CAC#06-105-08	1/17/07	Vergara	Grace Baterna	SY's Corporation dba Pacific Gardenia Hotel and Rex I. Palacios (Receiver)
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Wahed	Md. Abdul	Island Security Services Inc.
LC#07-246	11/30/07	Wang	Hong Yu	J.S. Corporation, Rui Kangping and Kwon Soon Young
LC#07-086	8/8/07	Wang	Hong Yu	Jin Yang Corp., et al
LC#04-437	3/16/07	Wang	Wen Zhen	American Sai Green Corporation
LC#07-082	8/8/07	Wang	Xiao Ping	Jin Yang Corp., et al
CAC#04-003-01	10/25/07	Wang	Xiu Ling	Zhong Ming Corp.
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Wu	Ming Yong	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Yang	Bang Xiao	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
LC#04-804	3/9/07	Yong	Qun Cao	Sako Corporation
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Zhan	Fei	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
LC#98-402	3/16/07	Zhang	Zhan Shan	American Kai Hua Corporation
CAC#04-025-05	10/12/06	Zhen	Huan Xian	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation; and Sun, Qiao Lan
CAC#98-191-10	3/8/06	Zhen	Jian Wei	CWM, Inc. and Chen Binru
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Zhou	Jun Qzng	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#05-048-04	9/24/07	Zhou	Ren	Far Ocean Corporation
LC#07-072	8/7/07	Zhu	Gui Qin	Jin Yang Corp., et al
CAC#07-065-04	7/20/07	Zhu	Yinchuan	Grace International, Inc.
CAC#04-019-03	5/21/07	Ziang	Jing	Net Corporation
CAC#03-006-02				
CAC#02-098-12	6/12/07	Zoleta	Romulo G.	Island Security Services Inc.



# NMI to host regional nursing conference

Nurses from all over the Pacific basin are coming this June to Saipan as it is the CNMI Nursing Association's turn to host and organize the annual American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council Conference.

This educational conference invites nursing professionals from American Samoa, Chuuk, CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, Kosrae, Marshall Islands, Palau, Pohnpei, Yap and Japan to facilitate discussion about the region's current leading health issues, conduct Continuing Education classes, host a cultural night, as well as promote and create a deeper appreciation and aware-

ness of the nursing industry to the community.

"We are very excited to have this opportunity and we are going to do our very best as a nonprofit, volunteer group to give the nursing delegations a rewarding and educational experience," said CNMI Nursing Association vice president Bertha Camacho.

Last year, the APNLC Conference was held in Guam and the Council announced Saipan as the next host as part of the

annual rotation among the jurisdictions. Saipan last hosted the conference 10 years ago.

## ON THE NET

www.mpnurses.org

## CONTACT INFO

Bertha Camacho: 664-4853  
or taroleafgroup@gmail.com

For over 30 years, the APNLC has served as communication mechanism be-

tween the nursing professionals, examined solutions, shared expertise of nurse members, as well as collaborated with partners such as the World Health Organization and U.S. Department of Public

Health and Services.

The five-day conference will be held June 15-19, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Sand-Castle with the theme "Nurses Empowering Lives."

Registration is ongoing now on www.mpnurses.org up to May 15. After May 15, the late registration fees will apply, so all nurses are encouraged to register early.

For more information, contact Bertha Camacho at 664-4853 or e-mail at taroleafgroup@gmail.com. (PR)

## Junior High Mock Trial on Saturday

Teams of students from around the Commonwealth will participate in the annual Junior High Mock Trial on Saturday, April 18, 2009, from 9am to noon, at the U.S. District Court chamber in Garapan.

This program is hosted annually by the NMI Council for the Humanities to help students develop useful knowledge about the law and courtroom procedures in enjoyable, non-competitive format.

Participating teams representing the prosecution and defense will argue a hypothetical case before Rep. Joseph Camacho, who will serve as the mock trial judge. Attorney Teresa Kim will serve as the bailiff.

Teams have been practicing their respective sides the past few months with the assistance of their teacher coaches and periodic advice received from

volunteer attorneys who have served as lawyer coaches.

Final parings for this year's mock trial include: Mount Carmel vs. Grace Christian Academy #1; Tinian Junior High vs. Eskuelan San Fransisco de Borja; Whispering Palms vs. Grace Christian Academy #1; and Grace Christian Academy #2 vs. Rota Junior High School.

Unlike the high school mock trial program, no winners will be selected. Rather, the Humanities Council will award special certificates to individual students recognized by Camacho for exemplary performances in their roles as attorneys and witnesses.

The Humanities Council invites the public to attend this educational and entertaining event. For more information contact Council staff at 235-4785. (PR)



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Student applicants sought for Korea trip

Applications are being accepted from students between the age of 9 to 12 who are interested to participate in the upcoming JCI Student Exchange Program to be held in Seoul, Korea, from May 11 to 16, 2009. Anyone interested may come to the Saipan Mayor's Office and pick up an application form, Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4pm. For more information, call Jemalyn Tenorio at 234-6208 or 6280. (PR)

### Financial aid for power bill payments

Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela announced yesterday the availability of funds under the Mayor's Utility Assistance Program to help qualified residents pay for one month of their power bill. This is a federally funded program available to residents of the Municipality of Saipan who are unable to pay for their power bill to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. All residents whose power bill is under their name are eligible to apply. Application forms can be picked up at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Afetnas Square in San

Antonio during regular working hours, Monday to Friday, between 7:30am to 11am and 12:30pm to 4pm. For more information, call Carmen C. Maratita or Katherine P. Terry at 234-6280 or 6208. (PR)

### Ribbon cutting ceremony for Navy housing units

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled today, April 16, at Apra View housing on U.S. Naval Base Guam to commemorate the completion of 24 brand new housing units for military service members and their families.

The \$43.2 million construction project, which was awarded to Guam-based Black Construction Company in April 2007, includes the demolition of 61 old units and the new construction of 55 replacement units.

"This is an exciting time for the Navy on Guam," said Rear Adm. William French, commander of Joint Region Marianas. "The new homes speak volumes of the strides that we continue to make toward ensuring that Guam is recognized as a first-class duty destination for Sailors and their families." (PR)

## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

#### April 16, 2001

##### Cops tossed to drug tests

Taking the cue from recent reports alleging involvement of law enforcers in illegal drug use and trade, the Department of Public Safety launched this month a random drug testing of its over 350 police officers and office personnel. The random testing was launched in response to a government-wide call to weed out public officers of officials and employees who either use or trade prohibited substances. Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram disclosed Friday that the first round of the random drug tests was conducted last April 3 where more than nine police offices and staff were submitted to various narcotic examinations.

##### Regaining paradise from prostitution

Saipan residents are determined to regain their beautiful island of clear waters, white sand, green and palms that they once lost to prostitution. Island residents discourage both male and female sex workers from doing their "business" here, a move they described a people's initiative to preserve the image and reputation of Saipan as a peaceful and wholesome tourist destination. This initiative helps the Commonwealth's war against prostitution on Saipan to slowly gain ground. Lately, there has been reduced sightings of conspicuous-looking women and their promoters strutting around the Western Garapan area as they used to.

#### April 16, 2002

##### Hunt for robbery suspects on

Police are digging deep into the bank robbery that rocked Saipan Friday afternoon, as investigators gather evidence that would point to the two suspects who are reportedly local males. City Trust Bank employees believe two local males may have perpetrated the robbery, based on the voices they heard behind the ski masks, police said yesterday. Authorities are still pursuing possible leads but have made no arrests as of press time. "Some of the witnesses say they're possibly locals because their voice sounded [like they were] locals," Public Safety spokesperson Lt. Pete C. Muña learned from police investigators.

##### FAA vows funding assistance for NMI's air transport system

The Federal Aviation Administration vowed to extend all necessary assistance to the Commonwealth Ports Authority in efforts to continuously enhance the Commonwealth's security and air transport system. FAA Regional Administrator William C. Withycombe said the agency looks forward to continuing the tradition of cooperation and partnership between them and the ports authority to ensure secure and efficient air transportation system. "I look forward to continuing this tradition, to enhance an already safe, secure and efficient air transport system," Withycombe told CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas.

#### April 16, 2003

##### 'Eliminate homestead program'

The Marianas Public Lands Authority is asking the Legislature to pass a measure that would terminate the long-running homestead program in the CNMI. MPLA commissioner Henry Hofschneider said in an interview yesterday that it is one of the options that the agency is exploring amid the scarcity of public lands. "We've been asking the Legislature to start considering terminating the homestead program. It's a legislative program. It's very sensible to just discontinue the homestead for now and evaluate what this government wants and needs," he said. Hofschneider said this idea has been relayed to some lawmakers when they conducted a public hearing on the homestead moratorium, which remains in effect since October last year.

##### Witness says Marjorie did no work during her employment

"If you apply the law and your common sense, you will find Ricardo Atalig guilty beyond reasonable doubt on all 27 [criminal] counts." That is how Assistant U.S. Attorney John Rice concluded his opening statement, as the trial proper on the federal wire fraud charges against the senator began yesterday afternoon at the U.S. District Court. Atalig's executive secretary, Dolores Sablan Bermudes, took the witness stand and testified that she did not see any work done by her co-employee, Marjorie Dela Cruz, in her employment with Atalig. Bermudes testified on several documents presented to her by Rice, including Dela Cruz's employment documents and employee's time and attendance sheets that she herself prepared.



### ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and his staff pose right after they installed the Holy Cross on top of Mt. Tapochao on Good Friday. The mayor and staff also served water and oranges that were generously donated by HanNam Market, Saipan Korean Association, and JCI (Saipan Jaycees).

## Autism group to host Open House and two workshops

The Autism Society of the CNMI would like to invite everyone to an Open House and two workshops at the NMPASI FS360 Training Center at the NMPASI office in Middle Road on Saturday, April 18. Parents will be available to answer questions and provide information about autism throughout the day. Information regarding the ASCNMI and future meetings will also be available.

From 9:30am to 10:30am, there will be a workshop taught by Tom Thornburgh and Greg Borja of NMPASI that uses the Rugged Outdoors Physical Experiential System (ROPES) to teach greater awareness of what individuals with autism and other disabilities face, as well as etiquette toward individuals

with disabilities. This is a workshop with a lot of activities, so participants are asked to wear comfortable shoes and clothing.

From 10:30am to 12pm, there will be a workshop called Parental Involvement taught by Vince Merfalen that teaches parents and family members how to become more involved in your child's education and work in collaboration with your child's school.

All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders and other disabilities are invited to attend. Seating is limited for both these workshops, so if you would like to attend, call Liza or Carmen at NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or send an e-mail to as\_cnmi@yahoo.com to reserve your seat. (PR)



# Senators this time raise concern about Fitial's signature on letter

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Who signed Gov. Benigno Fi-

tial's signature on a letter to President Obama and why are questions still on the minds of members of the Legislature.

During a special Senate session yesterday, Senate President Pete Reyes brought the issue up as the letter in question was

passed out to all seven senators present.

The letter asked Obama to let the Department of Interior administer the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund section of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, not the U.S. Department of Education as required under the law.

Fitial's signature appeared alongside signatures of the governors of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, earlier said the governors' request was denied, which is supported by a letter from the Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan to the governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, saying the Education Depart-

ment would consult with the Interior.

"I don't know who signed off for the governor, but the governor supported the letter's position. I also understand that he signed that letter while in D.C. In any case, the issue is now moot," press secretary Reyes said about the March 4 letter addressed to Obama.

Although the issue is now moot, President Reyes said it was still controversial and the Senate would later delve into the letter's intent.

He also questioned the authenticity of the signature of Felix Camacho, the governor of Guam.

"I know the signature of the governor of Guam. It's different from what I remember," he said.

"In my personal opinion, looking at the signatures, it

looks like all four were signed by one person," he added.

On Tuesday, members of the House of Representatives also raised the issue of Fitial's signature.

House Speaker Arnold Palacios said he was concerned about the impression sending a letter to the White House with a "fake" signature would look.

"How and why this happened is beyond comprehension," Palacios added.

The issue came up after members of the Public School System's Board of Education learned about Fitial signing the letter asking Obama to let Interior disburse the stabilization funds. BOE vice chair Herman Guerrero said he was upset Fitial wrote the letter to Obama without first asking PSS.



## BEATING THE DEADLINE

Residents beat yesterday's deadline for filing the 2008 individual income tax return at the Division of Revenue and Taxation in Dandan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## Labor uncovers massive sponsorship scheme

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has uncovered a massive sponsorship scheme involving 24 alien workers who paid money to their "employer."

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody sanctioned Leon H. Lizama in the amount of \$500 for each sponsorship submitted, for a total sanction of \$12,000.

Cody permanently barred Lizama from employing foreign national workers in the CNMI.

Cody also referred Lizama's case to the Office of the Attorney General for possible criminal investigation.

The hearing officer ordered 19 alien workers to report to the Labor Enforcement Section to make arrangements for their repatriation.

Cody, however, allowed five other alien workers to seek new employers after they came to Labor, admitted the fraud, and assisted Labor with its investigation.

"Such assistance was instrumental in framing the department's case and establishing the truth with respect to this massive sponsorship scheme," he noted.

Labor records showed that Lizama had represented to Labor that he owns and operates a commercial farm and a health supply service.

Labor began an investigation after it noticed that Lizama filed 23 transfer applications in 2007, while at the same time declining to renew six out of seven of his current employees.

Labor subsequently denied 24 of Lizama's applications. The 23 workers appealed the denial.

Lizama first denied engaging in any sponsorship, but then changed his story at the second hearing on July 7, 2008, admitting that all the applications were actually sponsorship agreements.

Under the arrangement, Lizama would file employment application offering non-existent jobs to workers in exchange for a payment from the worker.

The workers each paid \$50 per month for three months. Each worker would be responsible for paying his or her labor processing fees, including bonding.

Cody said Lizama and the workers committed fraud against Labor by submitting permit applications that purported to evidence actual employment when, in fact these arrangements were nothing more than sponsorships.

## Senate passes smoking ban bill

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Senate passed a bill yesterday banning smoking in workplaces and public areas, although the legislative body made some changes easing the restrictions that were originally on the House bill.

All seven members present voted to pass House Bill 16-47, or "the Smoke-free Air Act of 2008." Senators Luis Crisostimo and Paul Manglona were absent. The Senate earlier took up the bill but sent it to committee where some amendments were made.

Under the legislation, all enclosed public places and indoor workplaces must be completely smoke-free. The

Senate reduced the amount of space from 25 feet to 15 feet required between the smoke-free area and doorways, windows, and ventilation intakes.

Also, 10 percent of the total square footage of a hotel may be designated as smoking areas as long as it is not enclosed.

Establishments can also seek exemptions from the law by submitting an application to the Department of Public Health. Establishments would pay \$10,000 to apply for a full exemption and \$2,000 for a partial area exemption.

The smoking ban does not apply to bars, private residences, and retail tobacco stores, as well as hotel rooms and private rooms in nursing homes that are designated as smoking.

The smoking ban has received broad support from the community. The Department of Public Health called the bill "a stepping stone toward improved health for our CNMI community." The CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition said the measure is "long-awaited and much needed."

Palauan leaders also expressed their support for the legislation. Palau's Office of the Council of Chiefs said, "Tobacco use was never part of our Pacific tradition and so legislation to control its use will go toward reinforcing traditional practice—a healthy policy on the part of Pacific people which we embrace."

The House must now vote on the amendments before it goes to the governor for his signature.



## SAIPAN CO-ED SOCCER LEAGUE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Green and Team Red Fair Play join for a group photo before their match on April 14, 2009, at airport field on Saipan. The Saipan Co-ed Soccer League, also including Team Yellow and Team Blue, has been holding matches over the last two months for players of all skill levels.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Kagman High PTSA meeting set

Attention parents and guardians of Kagman High School students: There will be a PTSA meeting on Thursday, April 21, from 6pm to 7pm, at the Kagman High School cafeteria. The meeting will also be held via video teleconferencing for all parents, guardians, staff and students from the northern side of the island. Parents from Marpi, As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, and Sadog Tasi can go to Tanapag Elementary School to attend the meeting. For more information, call us at 237-3840 or 237-3832, or fax 664-3788. (PR)

### Student applicants ought for Korean trip

Applications are being accepted from students between the age of 9 to 12 who are interested to participate in the upcoming JCI Student Exchange Program to be held in Seoul, Korea, from May 11 to 16, 2009. Anyone interested may come to the Saipan Mayor's Office and pick up an application form, Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4pm. For more information, call Jemalyn Tenorio at 234-6208 or 6280. (PR)

### Financial aid for power bill payments

Saipan Mayor Juan Borja

Tudela announced yesterday the availability of funds under the Mayor's Utility Assistance Program to help qualified residents pay for one month of their power bill. This is a federally funded program available to residents of the Municipality of Saipan who are unable to pay for their power bill to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. All residents whose power bill is under their name are eligible to apply. Application forms can be picked up at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Afetnas Square in San Antonio during regular working hours, Monday to Friday, between 7:30am to 11am and 12:30pm to 4pm. For more information, call Carmen C. Maratita or Katherine P. Terry at 234-6280 or 6208. (PR)

### CPA field free for use but...

The Commonwealth Ports Authority informs the public that the CPA field at the airport is available to all free of charge. However, before anyone can use the field, it must be reserved with the CPA. Any unreserved activities are not permitted and must clear the entire field without demand for the reserved activity. Everyone's cooperation is requested and appreciated.

### Brilliant Star School sets

### free presentation

The Brilliant Star School is offering a Parent Discovery Evening in place of its regular open house, as part of efforts to share what a Brilliant Star education is.

The presentation, titled "What is Elementary?" will be held Thursday, April 16, 6:30pm. This will be another dynamic evening that will preview the Elementary learning experience. Attendees may invite friends.

What to expect:

■ A presentation of the 5th cosmic fable: The Story of Numbers.

■ Examples of how we teach time management and the balancing of work choices

■ Record keeping and assessment

■ How we address classroom management

■ Child work examples

■ The characteristics of the 6-12 aged child, such as what changes you can expect in them as they grow, and how to support their development.

Brilliant Star School provides education for children 12 months to 12 years old. This special Parent Discovery Evening focusing on Elementary Education is open to the public.

For more information call Brilliant Star principal Rob Schultz at 323-7827. (PR)



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## The price of piracy

First off, it just has to be said: Nice shooting, SEALs. Simultaneously hitting and instantly killing three partly obscured pirates who were holding guns on an American hostage—and doing it after nightfall, from the deck of a ship in choppy seas—is a remarkable feat, making us very glad these highly trained and immensely capable naval troops are on our side. Yet, though there's ample reason to celebrate the rescue Sunday of container-ship Capt. Richard Phillips after a five-day standoff with pirates off the coast of Somalia, it comes with recognition that the aggressive U.S. response risks escalating the piracy threat and endangering the lives of more merchant ships' crews.

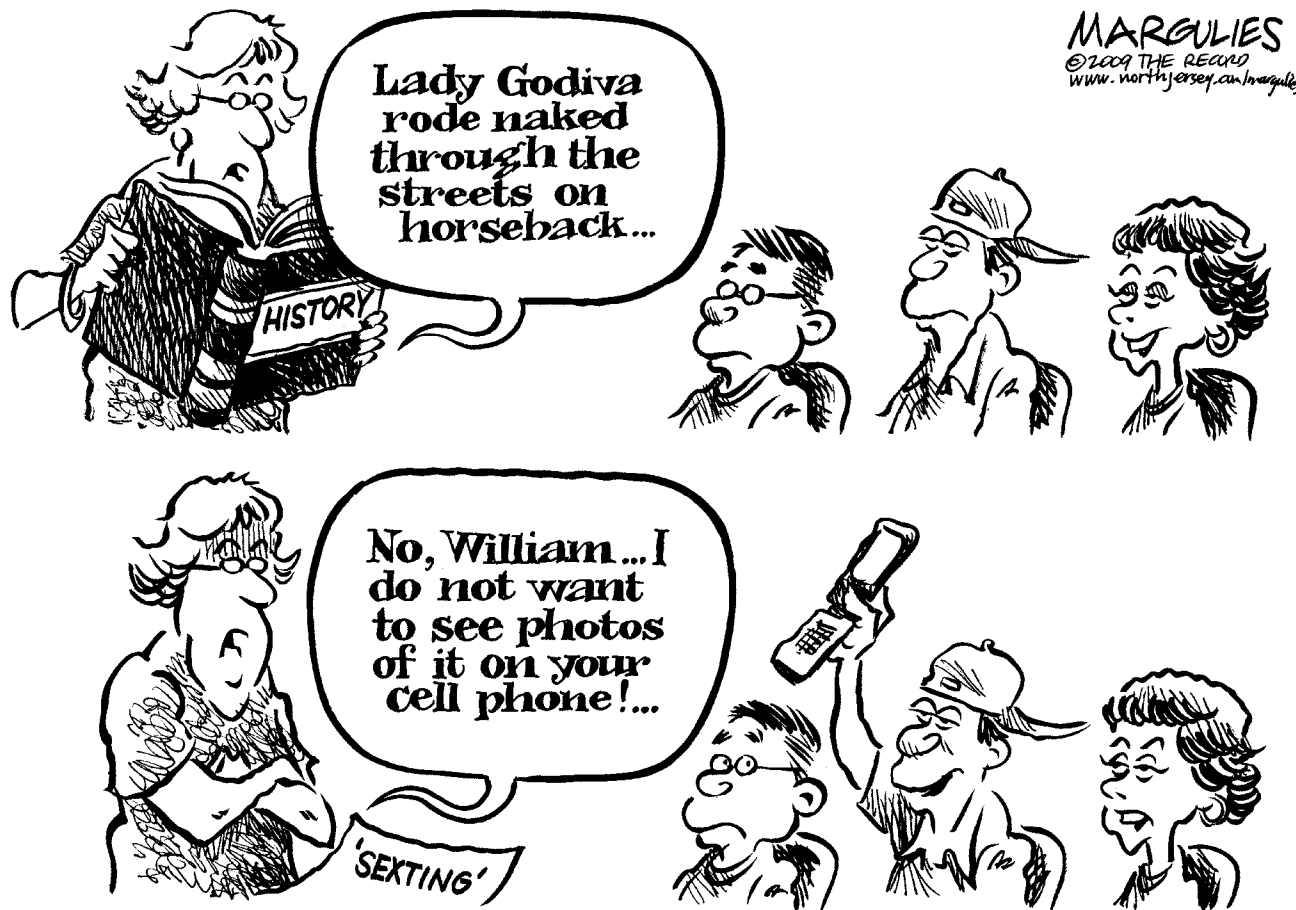
Most of the attacks that have plagued the Horn of Africa over the last year have been relatively bloodless, compared with pirate encounters of the past. Typically, the unarmed crews have surrendered without a fight, and the owners of captured ships have agreed to pay substantial ransoms, sometimes in the multimillion-dollar range. That changed Wednesday when pirates for the first time seized a U.S.-flagged ship—the Maersk Alabama, carrying humanitarian food aid. The crew fought back and disabled the ship, and the pirates fled to a lifeboat with the captain as a hostage. When the U.S. Navy arrived, negotiators refused to pay a ransom for Phillips.

U.S. officials hope that the tough stance and successful rescue will discourage pirates from attacking American ships. Maybe, but it's more likely that it will just spur the pirates to bring more crewmen and bigger guns the next time around, and to be more inclined to use them. The threat of death isn't much of a deterrent to hopeless young Somali men who face a choice between potentially making millions on the high seas or starving on shore.

It's impossible to fault any of the Americans involved in the hostage drama, from Phillips—who heroically surrendered himself to save his crew—to the negotiators who rightly refused to give in to the pirates' ransom demands, to President Obama, who gave the Navy orders to act if Phillips' life was judged to be threatened. But the gloves are off now, and ships passing within hundreds of miles of the Somali coast should be ready for a fight.

Shipping companies have been unwilling to arm their crews for fear it would put their employees in danger. That's no excuse for offering pirates a soft, easy target. Too few have trained their crews in nonlethal anti-piracy techniques, hired armed security guards or contracted with private escort ships. Meanwhile, the international community must do more to protect shipping in these waters, restore the rule of law in Somalia and improve the economic conditions that make piracy such an attractive profession.

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## Use smart financial power to hit North Korea

On Monday, the U.N. Security Council voted to condemn North Korea's recent missile launch and ordered the Sanctions Committee to enforce financial sanctions and an arms embargo against Pyongyang.

It remains to be seen how far countries such as China and Russia will actually go in tightening sanctions. But the U.S. should ensure that the condemnation has meaning by taking decisive action with or without the Security Council.

We know what works: leveraging smart financial power to pressure North Korea and disrupt the regime's continued proliferation and illicit financial activity.

In September 2005, as part of a strategic pressure campaign, the Treasury Department ordered U.S. financial institutions to close correspondent accounts for a private bank in Macau—Banco Delta Asia. This bank was facilitating money laundering, proliferation and counterfeiting on behalf of the North Korean regime.

The regulation cut the bank off from the U.S. financial system. More important, the unilateral regulation unleashed the global financial furies against North Korea. Banks in China, Asia and Europe stopped doing business with North Korea, denying it access to the international financial system. North Korean bank accounts were closed, its transnational commercial transactions were canceled, and officials' financial activities were carefully scrutinized.

This hurt Pyongyang. The North Korean regime scrambled to regain access to money and accounts around the world while trying to undo the official damage done to its reputation in the international financial community. Key state actors, including China, had no incentive to block the full effect of the market reaction. On the contrary, they did not want their banks or financial reputations caught up in the taint of North Korea's illicit financial activity.

This pressure became the primary leverage for the U.S. to press for North Korea's return to the six-party negotiating table. Once the six-party talks reassembled, the financial pressure campaign against North Korea ended, resulting in a loosening of the financial squeeze.

Unlike traditional state-based sanctions, this kind of financial leverage relies more on the risk-based calculus of global financial institutions than the policy decisions of governments. For legitimate financial institutions, there are no benefits to the risk of facilitating illicit transactions that could bring high regulatory costs and damage to their reputations if uncovered. Rogue actors

By JUAN CARLOS ZARATE

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Juan Carlos Zarate was deputy national security adviser for combating terrorism from 2005 to 2009 and served as a senior Treasury Department official from 2001 to 2005. He is now a senior adviser to the Center for Strategic and International Studies.



who misuse the financial system can be exposed and shut out by the financial community itself. In this context, government sanctions and regulatory actions serve as prompts for the international financial community to act preventively. If financial institutions act according to their own interests, targeted actors and their suspected fronts will be denied access to the facilities of the international financial system.

Thankfully, the implements to launch such a campaign are in place. The U.S. has relevant regulatory and executive powers created post-9/11 to address specific money-laundering and proliferation threats and to target relevant sanctions to individuals and entities; the Treasury has created an international financial coalition focused

on the problem of proliferation and has built credibility with the private sector regarding the protection of the financial system.

The United Nations could help by including in its recommendation an obligation to freeze the assets of North Korean companies, regime elements and leaders engaged in illicit and proliferation activity. Wisely, President Barack

Obama has kept in place the Bush administration's Treasury team, led ably by Undersecretary Stuart Levey, which knows how to unleash the financial furies against rogue regimes.

This smart financial power, which falls in the space between diplomacy and military force, is no silver bullet, but it is one of the few effective national security tools that give teeth to our diplomacy. It is a lever on which the Obama administration will rely heavily when dealing with Iran, Burma (renamed Myanmar by the ruling junta) and other rogue regimes that appear beyond the reach of traditional tools of statecraft. And it is a tool that it should rely on now, to unleash again a pressure campaign against North Korea and send a clear message to the regime that its dangerous recalcitrance will be met with real and painful actions to stop it.

*We know what works: leveraging smart financial power to pressure North Korea and disrupt the regime's continued proliferation and illicit financial activity.*



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Real heroes

The cargo ship *Maersk Alabama* was carrying food aid to Rwanda, Uganda, and Somalia when Somali pirates attacked it on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, off Somalia's eastern coast. As the pirates boarded, Captain Richard Phillips told his 19 men to lock themselves in a cabin, and he offered himself as a hostage to save his crew.

Over the next few days, U.S. warships and a helicopter shadowed the enclosed 28-foot lifeboat with the pirates who held Phillips hostage. On Friday, Phillips tried to swim to safety, but was recaptured after a pirate fired into the water. When the lifeboat ran out of fuel, the pirates agreed to have the USS *Bainbridge* tow it to calmer waters.

After four days the situation intensified, and Phillips' was in danger of being killed by a pirate who held an AK-47 assault rifle to the back of his head. The commander of the *Bainbridge* made the decision to order three concealed Navy SEAL snipers to shoot at the three remaining pirates on the lifeboat. It was nighttime on the open ocean when all three pirates were exposed and three bullets from the SEALs simultaneously found their target to the head, killing all three pirates and saving Captain Phillips.

This is real life, not some cheesy Hollywood movie—although it will probably become material for a scriptwriter and find its way to the silver screen. Captain Phillip's selfless act to offer himself as hostage to save his men is an example of what real heroes do when things go bad.

I was recently reading about men who placed themselves in mortal danger in order to save the lives of their comrades in wartime. Kids used to idolize men of valor and imagine themselves in similar situations. Now they seem to idolize drugged-up musicians, athletes, and self-centered celebrities living a pampered life.

Who are some of the almost forgotten heroes? Where are the Sgt. Yorks and the Audie Murphys of today?

Sgt. York was a household name after World War I. Born into a family of redneck Tennessee farmers, Alvin York rebelled by drinking too much and getting into bar fights. When a friend was killed

in one of the bar fights, he swore off drinking and became a pacifist. He even filed as a conscientious objector when he received his draft notice in 1917, but it was denied.

After a year in the service, he was one of 17 men chosen to take out a fortified machine-gun encampment that guarded a German railroad. The gunners spotted them as they approached and nine of the men were killed or severely wounded. The other seven ran for cover, leaving corporal York alone to take fire from 32 heavy machine gunners. After the first 20 Germans were killed by York, a German lieutenant took five soldiers with him to attack their sole enemy from the side. York pulled out his Colt .45 with eight bullets in it, and killed all of them.

At this point, the Germans didn't know what to make of York, since none of them could hit him while he easily reduced their numbers. Lt. Paul Jurgen Vollmer negotiated a surrender if York would stop shooting, and 10 minutes later 133 men walked toward the remains of York's battalion and gave themselves up as prisoners. He was promoted to sergeant and he told his division commander, General Duncan, in 1919: "A higher power than man power guided and watched over me and told me what to do."

Audie Murphy was a Texas farm boy who was an excellent shot with a rifle. He faked his age to enlist in the Army during World War II as a 16-year old, 5 foot 5.5 inch, 110-pound soldier. After passing out halfway through basic training they tried to transfer him to become a cook, but he insisted on fighting.

He contracted malaria during the invasion of Italy, and had it during most of the war. In 1944, he was sent to southern France and his platoon encountered a German machine gun crew who pretended to surrender, but then shot and killed his good friend. He went ballistic, and killed everyone in the gun nest, then used the German's machine guns to kill all the enemies within a 100-yard radius, including two machine gun nests and some snipers.

About half a year later, his company of 19 men (out of the original 128) was given the job to defend the Colmar Pocket, a critical region in France. They had a couple of M-10 tank de-

By **RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS**  
*Special to the Tribune*

*Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz\_results@yahoo.com.*



stroyers that met a half dozen tanks and a lot of German soldiers, while Murphy's company hid in a trench because reinforcements weren't coming for awhile. When the M-10s were ripped to shreds, this five-and-one-half-foot tall kid with malaria ran to one of the crippled and burning tank destroyers and hopped behind its .50 cal machine gun, and started killing everyone in sight. He did this for almost an hour, keeping the German's at bay. When he was out of bullets, he walked back to his astonished men as the M-10 exploded in the background.

Murphy wrote an autobiography about his war experiences titled *To Hell and Back*. After the war he became an actor and he was asked to play himself in the movie with the same title. He reluctantly agreed, but insisted that some parts be taken out for fear that Hollywood audiences wouldn't believe all his acts of heroism. The movie held the title of the highest-grossing film by Universal for 20 years, until the making of Stephen Spielberg's *Jaws*.

These stories shouldn't be forgotten, but used to remind us that one person can change the outcome of what seems like a hopeless situation for all. Phillips', York's, and Murphy's selfless acts all had an effect on those lives around them. One person can be a real hero and make a difference, while a group of people who step into the hero's circle and work together can make a profound difference in their community and the world. Who will be the real heroes in your community to change the outcome of what seems like a hopeless situation?

## Letters to the Editor

### Open letter to CNMI retirees

Dear fellow CNMI retirees: According to the information I have, the number of us who are retired from the CNMI government and currently receiving a pension from the Retirement Fund is about 3,000. This does not include those who are eligible to retire yet cannot because the Retirement board will not issue their pension. Why? Because the CNMI government has not contributed their employer's share of payments to the Retirement Fund.

Most, if not all of us retirees, are worried about our future. We are worried because in about three years the Retirement Fund will be completely dried up if the government does not make the payments it should be paying into the Retirement Fund, but has not paid for several years now. According to an article in a local newspaper this week, as of Dec. 31, 2008, the combined total unpaid employer's contributions from the CNMI government and autonomous agencies were approximately \$209 million. And this amount grows larger by the month. With no government payments going into the fund, every pension check we receive reduces the Fund's financial assets, and those assets are becoming less and less. We are worried because our legislators continue to enact laws that are detrimental to the Fund and have done very little, if anything, to address this grave problem. We are worried because of the poor economic health of the Commonwealth. Finally, we are worried because we do not know what will happen to us retirees in the not very distant future when we no longer receive our biweekly retirement check.

### Where are the displays?

While on my little three-day vacation on Saipan last week, I decided to take my grandmother to the American Memorial Park Museum in Garapan, as she has never visited it before. The last visit I took to the museum was back in September of last year, and since we have nothing like American Memorial Park here in Guam, I was quite impressed by it. But last week, I was disappointed to see that most of the items in the display cases in the museum were removed. A sign on the display case read that the items were removed because the museum raised the temperature of the air conditioning system due to the rising cost of power on Saipan, and because of this, they removed them before the temperature change causes the items to deteriorate.

This is sad. The American Memorial Park Museum is one of

Can you imagine what will happen if in three years none of us retirees receive our pension? What kind of situation will you and I be in? How will we continue supporting ourselves and our families? Who is going to pay for our food, our utilities, our doctor's bills, our prescription drugs costs, our rentals, our car payments, our payments for health and life insurance, our loan payments, etc.? How will we afford to live? Have we ever thought of that? And if there is no longer a Retirement Fund, does that also mean we will no longer have health insurance or life insurance? With no health insurance, how will we afford the health care we need as we grow older and in greater need of visits to the doctor and hospital? With no health insurance, how will we afford the total cost of prescription drugs so many of us need?

My fellow retirees, there is only one way we can confront our predicament—and that is to become *united* and to work as a team. *United*, we can bring about change. *United*, we can impress upon our elected officials what is rightfully ours and not give up until we obtain what is owed to us. *United*, we can influence lawmakers to change laws that negatively affect our retirement investment. *United*, we can make it known that we will not elect officials in the upcoming election who cannot provide us with detailed plans about how they will protect our pension investment. *United*, we can make it known that we will not reelect officials who have ignored the problems with the Retirement Fund during their current term in office. *United*, we can

the nicest, if not the nicest museum in all of Micronesia. And to see most of the items showcasing Saipan's past gone is saddening. Something should be done to put the items back where it belongs. I also read on the sign that the items are here in Guam and at the CNMI museum.

AMP sits in the heart of Garapan's tourist district and I am sure that at least 99.9 percent of tourists that visit the museum wonder where are all the relics. MVA and the CNMI government need to fix this problem ASAP.

**Aguarin Iriarte**  
*Guam*

make things happen!

*United*, we can accomplish almost anything, but if we are divided, our force and power will not be as effective and as strong. We retirees are like a rope. The more individual strands that are bound together to make the rope, the stronger the rope becomes. A rope with only a few strands can easily break. But if we retirees are bound together, we can overcome anything! As the common expression and song puts it, "United we stand, divided we fall." That, fellow retirees, must be our theme!

*United*, the 3,000 of us have enormous power. Let us use it to our advantage, especially during this upcoming election season. Let us pledge to ask every candidate seeking office how they will address our problem and ensure that the Retirement Fund will once again become financially healthy so that we continue to receive our pension checks and enjoy our senior years.

**Agnes McPhetres**  
*San Vicente, Saipan*

### JVA loopholes

I want to complain about the way the job vacancy announcement procedures are set up. I have applied for about 30 jobs on the marianaslabor website. About 15 businesses have called me in for interviews. All of those positions were already filled.

Why is the CNMI government making businesses advertise jobs when they know they aren't hiring. What is going on? It's gotten to the point where I'd ask the interviewer if the position is for a renewal or a transfer. I am sick and tired of wasting time, gas and money to fill out applications, get police clearance and drive to a useless interview.

Also some businesses are closing the announcement before the closing date. I had one company tell me that they already hired a non-U.S. citizen in a position while I was not even interviewed. I am from Precinct 5. These nonsense laws are not helping the CNMI's own people. Hopefully, this November, the people will vote to fix these problems.






**Willie L. Brundidge Jr.**  
*via e-mail*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

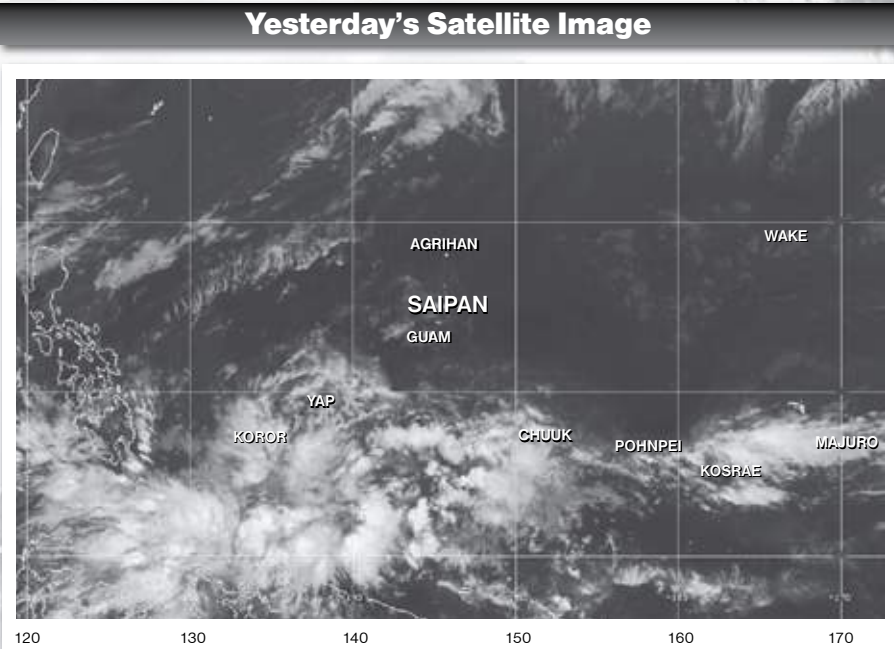
## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲90 ▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲85 ▼79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲67 ▼54
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲68 ▼50
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼75
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲79 ▼69
London	Rain	▲57 ▼46
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲64 ▼56
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼67
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼44
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲70 ▼52
Paris	Showers	▲58 ▼42
Pusan	Cloudy	▲67 ▼51
Rome	Showers	▲69 ▼56
Salem	Cloudy	▲60 ▼44
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼49
Seoul	Cloudy	▲61 ▼41
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲63 ▼53
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼42

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
1:14 AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:21 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
10:38 AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:36 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts across the northwest corner of the discussion area from 25N138E to beyond 130E at 21N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring southeast of Okinawa along and up to 120 miles southeast of the front. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 4N130E to end at EQ136E. Winds converging near the trough are coupling with divergent upper-level winds to trigger scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of a line from 4N130E to Koror to 6N141E. A surface trough reaches northeastward from 2N147E to 9N150E. Trade-winds converging near the trough are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk but well south of Guam between the equator and 8N from 141E to 152E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in Pohnpei State, Kosrae State and the Republic of the Marshall Islands within 170 miles of a line from 5N160E to 6N166E to 5N177E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:02 AM	6:32 PM	Today	10:52 AM	
Friday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM	Friday	12:17 AM	11:44 AM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM	Saturday	1:00 AM	12:35 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM	Sunday	1:41 AM	1:25 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM	Monday	2:19 AM	2:14 PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily
<b>Guam-Narita</b> NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily	<b>Narita-Guam</b> NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm Daily NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7
<b>Guam-Osaka</b> NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Guam</b> NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily
<b>Guam-Nagoya</b> NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>Nagoya-Guam</b> NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Incheon</b> OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	<b>Incheon-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b> FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b> FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
<b>Guam-Palau</b> CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5	<b>Palau-Guam</b> CO 954 2:30am 5:25am 1,2 CO 892 2:35am 5:30am 4,6
<b>Palau-Manila</b> CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5	<b>Manila-Palau</b> CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Nagoya-Manila</b> NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily	<b>Manila-Nagoya</b> NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily
<b>Incheon-Hongkong</b> OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7	<b>Hongkong-Incheon</b> OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6 OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily
<b>Narita-Manila</b> NW 1 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily	<b>Manila-Narita</b> NW 2 7:45am 12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## Obama tempers optimism with reality on economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Aiming to assert control over the nation's economic debate, President Barack Obama on Tuesday warned Americans eager for good news that "by no means are we out of the woods" and argued his broad domestic agenda is the path to recovery.

In a speech at Georgetown University, Obama aimed to juggle his recent glass-half-full takes on the economy with a determination to not be stamped as naive in the face lingering



Obama

problems. He summarized actions his administration has taken to steady the limping economy and coupled that with a fresh overview of his domestic goals.

The speech, which

key aides had signaled in advance would not contain any major announcements, came as Obama nears his symbolic 100-day mark in office, important because that has become a traditional marker by which to judge new administrations.

"There is no doubt that times

are still tough," Obama said. "But from where we stand, for the very first time, we are beginning to see glimmers of hope. And beyond that, way off in the distance, we can see a vision of an America's future that is far different than our troubled economic past."

## Yacht executive pleads guilty in UBS tax case

MIAMI (AP)—The second U.S. citizen charged in wide-ranging tax probe of Swiss banking giant UBS AG pleaded guilty Tuesday to filing a false tax return to conceal a secret account at the Swiss bank holding more than \$3 million.

Robert Moran, president of Fort Lauderdale-based Moran Yacht and Ship, entered the plea in federal court the same day the single charge was unsealed. Moran, who reached a plea deal with prosecutors, faces up to three years in federal prison and \$250,000 in fines when sentenced on June 26.

Prosecutors said Moran, 57, failed on his 2007 U.S. tax return to report his interest in a UBS account and did

not report any income earned on the account, which was in the name of a Panamanian shell company called Winter Drive Investments.

Moran is the second U.S. citizen charged since February, when UBS turned over dozens of names of account holders suspected of concealing income from the Internal Revenue Service in a deferred prosecution agreement. A Boca Raton accountant currently free on \$12 million bail is scheduled to enter a plea next week to similar charges.

An agreement Moran signed with prosecutors says that he had about \$3.4 million in his UBS account as of December 2007, compared with about \$1.5 million six years earlier.

## Economy still vulnerable as retail sales fall

WASHINGTON (AP)—The recession is easing? Not so fast. An unexpected drop in sales of just about everything from cars to clothes sent a sobering message Tuesday: The economy is still vulnerable.

That cautionary guidance was seconded by President Barack Obama and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, though they had encouraging words as well. Bernanke spoke of "tentative signs" that at least the economy is declining more slowly, and Obama repeated his recent analysis that he sees

"glimmers of hope."

With Americans still losing jobs by the thousands, a major fear is that people will cut back even further on their spending, and that could plunge the economy into a sharper tailspin.

Tuesday's report that retail sales fell 1.1 percent in March deepened concern.

Improvements in a string of other economic reports over the past few weeks—including home and auto sales, home building and other consumer-spending barometers—had raised optimism that the econ-

omy's descent might be slowing. However, the path to any economic recovery isn't a straight line. It's often marked by lurches both forward and backward.

The economy shrank at a 6.3 percent rate in the final three months of 2008, its worst showing in a quarter-century. Some economists estimate it fared about as poorly in the first three months of this year; others estimate a 4 to 5 percent rate of decline. The government will release its initial estimate for first-quarter economic activity at the end of April.



In this April 9, 2009 photo, shoppers including Poi Wong and her daughter Jamie Guenther, 7, foreground, shop at a Wal-Mart store in the Porter Ranch area of Los Angeles.

## EBay plans IPO for Skype, undoing \$2.6B-plus deal

NEW YORK (AP)—EBay Inc. plans to spin off its Internet communications service Skype through an initial public offering, undoing a \$2.6 billion acquisition that puzzled analysts and eBay struggled to justify.

San Jose, Calif.-based eBay said Tuesday it expects to complete the IPO in the first half of next year, though it said the timing will be based on market conditions.

EBay bought Skype for \$2.6 billion in 2005. Many analysts questioned the high price because it was unclear why eBay needed to own a service that lets people make free or cheap voice and video calls on computers and cell phones. Skype was founded by Niklas Zennstrom and Janus Friis, creators of the music downloading service Kazaa, which had riled the recording industry.

EBay had hoped that buyers and sellers on its online marketplace would use Skype to communicate. That didn't catch on, and eBay took a \$900 million write-down on the business in 2007, essentially acknowledging it had drastically overvalued it.

When John Donahoe replaced Meg Whitman as chief executive in April 2008, eBay said it would re-evaluate Skype's role in the company. In a statement Tuesday, Donahoe said it's clear Skype has "limited synergies" with eBay and its payment service, PayPal.

Despite eBay's inability to fully integrate Skype with its core businesses, the unit has posted rapid growth: At the end of 2008, Skype had 405 million registered users, up 47 percent from 2007. Revenue totaled \$551 million in 2008, up 44 percent from 2007. EBay expects Skype to post more than \$1 billion in revenue by 2011.

**STOCK Portfolio**

**ASIAN MARKETS**

**AUSTRALIA**  
 3,697.700  
 Down 0.200 (-0.01%)

**HONG KONG**  
 15,256.15  
 Down 324.01 (-2.08%)

**JAKARTA**  
 1,578.962  
 Up 8.7011 (+0.55%)

**TOKYO**  
 8,681.29  
 Down 161.39 (-1.83%)

**K. LUMPUR**  
 953.71  
 Up 12.30 (+1.31%)

**MANILA**  
 2,022.49  
 Down 14.60 (-0.72%)

**SINGAPORE**  
 1,858.06  
 Down 38.96 (-2.05%)

**SEOUL**  
 1,307.27  
 Down 35.36 (-2.63%)

**BANGKOK**  
 453.88  
 Up 9.81 (+2.21%)

**LEADING INDICATORS**

**DOW**  
 7,920.18  
 -137.63

**NASDAQ**  
 1,625.72  
 -27.59

**S&P**  
 841.50  
 -17.23

**MONEY MARKET**

Australian Dollar	1.3967
British Pound	0.6729
Canadian Dollar	1.2171
Chinese Renmbi	6.8325
Euro	0.7555
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7503
Indian Rupee	50.004
Indonesian Rupiah	10810
Japanese Yen	98.172
Malaysian Ringgit	3.6197
New Zealand Dollar	1.734
Philippine Peso	47.93
Singapore Dollar	1.5052
South Korean Won	1343.55
Swiss Franc	1.1393
Taiwan Dollar	33.75
Thailand Baht	35.535

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Next version of Microsoft Office coming in 2010

SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft Corp.'s next version of its Office desktop programs will reach consumers next year, though not likely in conjunction with the Windows 7 operating system. Microsoft is set to announce Wednesday that Office 2010 will be finished and ready to send to manufacturers in the first half of next year. From there, it can take six weeks to four months or more for the programs to reach PC users, said Chris Capossela, a senior vice president in the Microsoft group that makes Office. The timing will differ for big businesses and individual consumers, and for people who buy packaged software versus those who download it. Windows 7, the successor to Windows Vista, is scheduled to reach consumers by the end of January 2010.

#### Intel says PC sales improving; profit beats Street

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Intel Corp.'s first-quarter profit blew past Wall Street's grim forecasts Tuesday and the company claimed that personal computer sales "bottomed out" and have started recovering. But that wasn't enough to keep its shares from tumbling. The optimistic

comments were notable because Intel was the first technology company to report earnings for the first three months of 2009. However, Intel let investors down by not giving specific revenue guidance. It's not yet clear whether people are buying significantly more PCs, or whether Intel is mainly benefiting from computer makers replenishing their chip inventories, which had been whittled to low levels to save cash.

#### Reports: Yahoo plans another round of layoffs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Struggling Internet giant Yahoo Inc. is preparing to lay off several hundred employees, marking the first round of job cuts since Chief Executive Carol Bartz took the helm, according to newspaper reports late Tuesday. Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Yahoo is trying to reverse three years of declining profits and has imposed other rounds of layoffs, including 1,500 workers in December. Yahoo has about 13,700 employees now. Management had warned another purge could come, depending on the length and severity of the recession. The new cuts could be announced next Tuesday when Yahoo reports quarterly earnings, *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* said, citing anonymous sources.



# Nation

## Feds release accused Nazi prison guard Demjanjuk

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—John Demjanjuk was released from federal custody Tuesday evening, just hours after six immigration officers removed the accused Nazi death camp guard from his suburban home in a wheelchair, authorities said. Federal officials had taken Demjanjuk to a federal building in downtown Cleveland, but the 89-year-old retired autoworker's impending return to Germany was halted when three-judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted a stay of deportation.

An arrest warrant in Germany

claims Demjanjuk was an accessory to some 29,000 deaths during World War II at the Sobibor camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. Once in Germany, he could be formally charged in court.

Demjanjuk was driven to his home in Seven Hills after his release, former son-in-law and family spokesman Ed Nishnic said. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a statement they'll supervise him through electronic monitoring.

In granting the stay, the three-judge panel said it would further consider Demjanjuk's motion to reopen the U.S. case that ordered the deportation, in

which he says painful medical ailments would make travel to Germany torturous.

Citing the need to act because of the possibility of Demjanjuk's imminent deportation, the court issued the stay without addressing the U.S. government's argument that the court had no

jurisdiction to rule on Demjanjuk's appeal.

The government planned to continue its legal battle in court, said Justice Department spokeswoman Laura Sweeney.

Nishnic said the family was relieved the stay was granted.

"We're delighted. We're

prepared to make our arguments with the 6th Circuit, and it's just a shame that Mr. Demjanjuk had to go through the hell that he went through once again this morning," he said as he walked into a federal building in Cleveland where Demjanjuk was being held.



John Demjanjuk, third from right, is taken from his home in Seven Hills, Ohio by immigration agents as his granddaughter, Olivia Nishnic looks on, Tuesday, April 14, 2009.

## Here's Bo! Obamas show pooch with 'star quality'



President Barack Obama watches as Malia shows off their new dog Bo, a 6-month-old Portuguese water dog, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, on Tuesday, April 14, 2009.

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—First pooch Bo got star treatment and his first backyard romp at the White House on Tuesday—and even presidential clearance to visit the Oval Office. But he better not get any inflated ideas about doggy sleeping arrangements. "Not in my bed," declared Barack Obama.

The nation got its long-awaited first look at Bo in action as the Obamas showed off the family's new dog on the South Lawn. First lady Michelle Obama did most of the walking while the 6-month-old Portuguese water dog scampered about. Then daughter Malia took a turn, and Bo took off running.

Despite the name of the dog's breed, daughter Sasha pointed out to reporters, "He doesn't know how to swim."

"Yeah, apparently they have

to be taught how to swim," Obama added.

The girls grinned as they played with Bo. The wet lawn, chilly air and gray sky didn't put a damper on Bo's debut.

Sasha clapped her hands at one point, calling for the dog's attention. Bo wagged his tail as each of the Obamas bent down to pet him.

Plainly pleased, the president said: "He's a star. He's got star quality."

Obama had promised his daughters, 10-year-old Malia and 7-year-old Sasha, a puppy during the presidential campaign. The dog finally arrived Tuesday after the girls came home from school.

The commander in chief laid down some guidelines.

Each family member is going to have to help out, Obama said. "We all have to take turns walking the dog."

## Crying Calif mom arraigned on murder, rape charges

**STOCKTON, Calif. (AP)**—A woman kidnapped, raped and murdered an 8-year-old girl and stuffed her body in a suitcase that was dumped in a pond just a few miles from home, prosecutors alleged Tuesday. Melissa Huckaby, 28, was charged with murdering her daughter's playmate, Sandra Cantu, in a gruesome crime that has shocked and terrified

residents of Tracy, a Northern California city of about 78,000, 60 miles east of San Francisco.

Huckaby, who volunteered as a Sunday school teacher at her grandfather's Clover Road Baptist Church in Tracy,



Huckaby

## Ex-Ill. Gov. Rod Blagojevich pleads not guilty

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Ousted Gov. Rod Blagojevich pleaded not guilty to racketeering and fraud charges Tuesday, defiantly embarking on a long journey to clear his name but facing serious money problems and without a team of lawyers in place.

"I'm glad this process has finally begun," the impeached former governor told the media throng that spilled into the street in front of the courthouse after he and his brother, Robert, were arraigned on corruption charges.

"It's the end of the beginning in one respect but it's the beginning of another aspect" of the case, Blagojevich said. "That is

appeared in a San Joaquin County courtroom for her arraignment in a red jumpsuit and shackles. She trembled and cried as a judge read the charge: one count of murder with the special circumstances of rape with a foreign object, lewd or lascivious conduct with a child under 14 and murder in the course of a kidnapping. The special circumstances mean Huckaby, if convicted, could face the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole. District Attorney James Willett said Tuesday he has not decided whether to

seek the death penalty. During Tuesday's hearing, which lasted several minutes, public defender Ellen Schwarzenberg asked Judge Richard A. Vlavianos for a gag order in the case. Vlavianos said that question would be answered by his colleague, Judge Terrence Van Oss, who would be presiding over future hearings.

Vlavianos ordered Huckaby to return to court April 24, when she's expected to enter a plea.

Family members of the defendant and victim filed quietly into and out of the courtroom Tuesday, declining to speak with reporters. Many cried softly during the hearing and became especially emotional when the rape allegation was read.

The former governor appeared to be in his element as the focus of a major political story yet again. He chatted amiably with reporters, and when one television cameraman stood atop a concrete pillar outside the courthouse to get a shot from above, he obligingly looked up and smiled.

Blagojevich was arrested Dec. 9 after authorities said he was heard on FBI wiretaps discussing swapping the Obama seat for a Cabinet post, a new job or campaign money. A federal grand jury returned a 19-count indictment April 2 that alleges corruption beginning before Blagojevich even took office.

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## ACROSS THE NATION

### Student killed in love triangle involving teacher

**CHANDLER, Ariz. (AP)**—An 18-year-old high school student caught with his 48-year-old math teacher in her bedroom was stabbed to death by her boyfriend, who was himself a former student of hers, police said Tuesday. Chandler police said 20-year-old Sixto Balbuena told them he never meant to kill Samuel Valdivia. He allegedly told police "the blade went in like going into butter" and that he just wanted to show Valdivia how much he hurt him by sleeping with Tamara Hofmann. Balbuena, a Navy sailor on leave from California, was arrested on a charge of second-degree murder after police found him covered in blood and told them about the killing.

### Alcohol found on Fla. boat that crashed, killing 5

**PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)**—Alcohol was found on the power boat that plowed into a tug boat and barge in north Florida, killing five people and injuring nine others, investigators said Tuesday. Capt. Gregg Eason of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission verified alcohol was aboard the 22-foot boat. But Eason, speaking at a news conference Tuesday afternoon, wouldn't say what kind of alcohol was found or whether the vessel's operator had been drinking. Toxicology reports are still pending. "We don't know who was drinking and who was not drinking," Eason said.

### Gingrich eyes possible White House run in 2012

**ATHENS, Ga. (AP)**—More than a decade after he stepped down as speaker of the House into what seemed like almost certain political oblivion, Newt Gingrich is back and seemingly more relevant than ever. Gingrich seems to be everywhere these days, headlining an endless circuit of GOP dinners, popping up on TV news shows, authoring yet another best-selling book and acting as a policy guru to out-of-power congressional Republicans. Now, some are speculating that the former congressman from Georgia is laying the groundwork for a White House bid in 2012. Grover Norquist, a prominent conservative and president of Americans for Tax Reform, said Gingrich is on nearly every Republican short list of possible White House prospects.



# Asia

## NKorea boots inspectors, vows to restart reactor

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—North Korea said Tuesday it was restarting its rogue nuclear program, booting U.N. inspectors and pulling out of disarmament talks in an angry reaction to U.N. Security Council condemnation of its April 5 rocket launch. Pyongyang ordered U.N. nuclear inspectors to remove seals and cameras from its Yongbyon nuclear site and leave the country as quickly

as possible, the International Atomic Energy Agency said.

North Korea told the IAEA it was “immediately ceasing all cooperation” and “has decided to reactivate all facilities and go ahead with the reprocessing of spent fuel,” according to a statement from the U.N. agency.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs condemned the decision, saying the international community will not

accept North Korea until it abandons what Washington calls its pursuit of nuclear weapons. The North must “cease its provocative threats,” he said.

Russia also deplored the move and urged its neighbor to rejoin six-nation talks, which have been held since 2003 in an attempt to get Pyongyang to give up its nuclear program in exchange for aid and other concessions. Britain’s Foreign Office said the break with the

IAEA was “completely unjustified.”

China—Pyongyang’s main ally and the host of the talks—called for calm on all sides.

Despite its defiance, analysts say North Korea, one of the poorest countries in the world, is unlikely to abandon the talks altogether. They suggested North Korea could be trying to draw the United States into direct negotiations, which it has long sought.

## ‘Untouchable’ seeks power in Indian election

**LUCKNOW, India (AP)**—Her father was a low-level government clerk from a caste so poor and uneducated it was shunned for centuries as “untouchable.” Her mother was illiterate.

But the daughter they named Mayawati sought a different destiny. She wanted political power, diamonds and—she’ll tell you—a chance to help India’s forgotten people. She wanted to build monuments to her heroes, memorials that would swallow up acres of this ancient city. Eventually, she got all that.

Now, as the nation of 1.2 billion people heads into a national election starting Thursday, she has an even larger goal: to run all of India.

In this election, a Herculean effort that stretches across four weeks and 800,000 polling stations, Mayawati lets no one forget that she emerged from a family of Dalits—as “untouchables” are now called—to run Uttar Pradesh, a politically powerful state with a population larger than France, Britain and Spain combined.

And with India’s political scene increasingly fractured, and national parties scrambling for allies, she now dreams of becoming a national leader—a long shot, but not an impossible one in the increasingly divided politics of the world’s biggest democracy.

The mere fact that a Dalit is under discussion for prime minister reflects the huge change sweeping India this decade. Caste-based parties have existed for years in India, chiefly at state level, and caste discrimination is illegal, but the vast majority remain desperately poor and ill-educated.

Mayawati says she’ll end all that.

“I brought so much change to Uttar Pradesh, and if I’m elected prime minister I can do the same to the whole country,” she said at a recent campaign rally.



Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh state and Bahujan Samaj Party leader Mayawati displays a crown presented to her by supporters during a public rally in Mumbai, India, in this April 8, 2009 photo.



Thai soldiers take break on the corner of a street in down town Bangkok, Thailand, Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

## Thai police charge 14 leaders in violent protests

**BANGKOK (AP)**—Police issued arrest warrants Tuesday for 14 leaders of an anti-government movement, including ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, as protesters abruptly ended violent demonstrations in Thailand’s capital.

A day after red-shirted protesters burned buses and seized intersections in clashes with police and soldiers that left two people dead and 123 injured, their leaders called it quits, urging a group of 2,000 die-hard demonstrators to go home.

The swift and unexpected resolution headed off the possibility of a confrontation with heavily armed

troops massing around the demonstrators’ encampment near the seat of government. Dispirited protesters quietly boarded government buses watched over by soldiers.

But few expected it was the end of a rural-based movement that has shown the ability to mobilize 100,000 protesters and cause the cancellation of a regional summit in its campaign seeking to force out a government dominated by urban elements and hold new elections.

The demonstrations were a mirror of mass protests by urban groups last year that snarled Bangkok until the courts removed a government led by

Thaksin’s allies who were elected on the strength of rural voters.

The appointment of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva further angered many rural people, who were already upset by a 2006 coup that ousted Thaksin, and their disenchantment blew up into their own protest movement.

Three of the 14 protest leaders were in police custody, metropolitan police spokesman Suporn Pansua said, and the Bangkok Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for 11 others, including Thaksin, who went into self-imposed exile last year before a court convicted him of violating a conflict of interest law.

## Afghan Taliban kill young woman, man for eloping

**KABUL (AP)**—A Taliban firing squad killed a young couple in southwestern Afghanistan for trying to elope, shooting them with AK-47s in front of a crowd in a lawless, militant-controlled region, officials said Tuesday.

The woman, 19-year-old Gul Pecha, and the man, 21-year-old Abdul Aziz, were accused by the militants of immoral acts, and a council of conservative clerics decided that the two should be killed, officials said.

The two had hoped to travel to Iran, which borders their home province of

Nimroz, but their parents sent villagers to bring them home, said Sadiq Chakhansori, the chief of the provincial council. Once back home, the pair was either turned over to the Taliban by their parents or the militants took them by force, the officials said, providing slightly varying accounts.

Riflemen in the remote district of Khash Rod shot them Monday, said Chakhansori.

Gov. Ghulam Dastagir Azad decried the fact that a three-person council of clerics operating outside

the state’s judicial system would level the death penalty.

“Through legal channels it would take months to prove such a case,” Azad said. “How can these people make a decision in four days and kill them? No one has the right to kill anybody without the decision of a court.”

Pecha, the woman, was an ethnic Pashtun from the region and a member of the Sunni sect of Islam, Azad said. Aziz was from the Shiite sect, Azad said, though he didn’t know his ethnicity.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Avalanche kills 7 army soldiers in Indian Kashmir

**SRINAGAR, India (AP)**—An avalanche hit an Indian army post in Himalayan Kashmir early Tuesday, killing seven soldiers, an army spokesman said. The army rescued eight soldiers who were partially buried by the cascading snow at an altitude of 14,000 feet (4,260 meters) in the Shasmbari forest area in Indian held Kashmir, said Col. K. Umamaheswar. “The eight have been provided medical aid, and their condition is very stable,” Umamaheswar told The Associated Press. The region, close to India’s de facto border with Pakistan, is 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of Srinagar, the summer capital of India’s Jammu-Kashmir state.

#### Missing Philippine plane found; all 7 aboard dead

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Officials say the wreckage of a light plane that had been missing for two weeks has been found in a northern Philippine jungle and that none of the seven Filipinos on board survived. Regional police commander Chief Superintendent Roberto Damian says searchers found the 10-seater BN Islander on Tuesday on a thickly forested mountain outside Baggao township in Cagayan province. The plane, owned by ChemTrad Aviation Corp., left the provincial capital of Cagayan on April 2 on a 35-minute flight to Maconacon township in nearby Isabela province. Damian said Wednesday that helicopters were dropping supplies and equipment to the search teams to help them recover the remains of the victims from the remote area.

#### Chinese workers protest again over unpaid wages

**BEIJING (AP)**—Hundreds of workers at a textile factory in southern China blocked roads Tuesday, in a second day of protests over unpaid wages, an employee said. The protests come as a collapse in demand for Chinese exports has closed factories and wiped out at least 20 million jobs. Communist leaders worry that more job losses and unpaid wages could result in mass protests. More than 400 employees at the state-owned Jindi Industry Group Co. in the suburban district of Fuling in Chongqing city took to the streets for the second day, complaining they have not been paid for nearly three months, said an employee at the company, who would give only his surname, Wang. The workers blocked a main road and disrupted traffic in hopes of attracting government attention and getting back pay of \$56 per month, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.



## World

# Somali pirates on hijack spree since weekend

**MOMBASA, Kenya (AP)**—Somali pirates were back to business as usual Tuesday, defiantly seizing four more ships with 60 hostages after U.S. sharpshooters rescued an American freighter captain. “No one can deter us,” one bandit boasted. The freed skipper, Richard Phillips, will return home to the United States on Wednesday, after reuniting with his 19-man crew in the Kenyan port of Mombasa, according to the shipping company Maersk Line Ltd.

The brigands grabbed more ships and hostages to show they would not be intimidated by President Barack Obama’s pledge to confront the high-seas bandits, according to a pirate based in the Somali coastal town of Harardhere.

“Our latest hijackings are meant to show that no one can deter us from protecting our waters from the enemy because we believe in dying for our land,” Omar Dahir Idle told The Associated Press by telephone. “Our guns do not fire water. I am sure we will avenge.”

On Monday, Obama vowed to “halt the rise of piracy” with-

out saying exactly how the U.S. and allies would do it.

The pirates have vowed vengeance for five colleagues slain by U.S. and French

forces in two hostage rescues since Friday.

“The recent American operation, French navy attack on our colleagues or any other

operation mean nothing to us,” said Idle, 26, whose gang holds a German freighter with 24 hostages.

The pirates say they are fight-

ing illegal fishing and dumping of toxic waste in Somali waters but have come to operate hundreds of miles from there in a sprawling 1.1 million square-mile danger zone.

The top U.S. military officer, Adm. Michael Mullen, said he takes the pirates’ threats seriously, but “we’re very well prepared to deal with anything like that.”

Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke on ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

After a lull at the beginning of the year because of rough seas, the pirates since the end of February have attacked 78 ships, hijacked 19 of them and hold 16 vessels with more than 300 hostages from a dozen or so countries.



In this black and white image made in 2007 in Houston, U.S.A., showing the Merchant Vessel Irene EM. U.S. Navy Lt. Nathan Christensen, spokesman for the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, confirmed Tuesday April 14, 2009, that the MV Irene was taken early Tuesday by pirates in the waters off the Somali coast. The Irene is Greek owned and flagged in the Caribbean islands, and is believed to have 23 Filipino crew aboard.

## Ending Somali piracy: few options for US forces

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)**—Stamping out Somalia’s piracy scourge using U.S. warships or military force will be virtually impossible, according to maritime experts who said Tuesday the real problems lie ashore in the ashes of Somalia’s failed state.

Fixing those problems could take decades, and the U.S. already tried intervening—17 years ago in a failed humanitarian mission that ended with helicopters shot down and dead US soldiers dragged through Mogadishu’s sand-swept streets.

“It’s understandable to find people yelling at their televisions, saying ‘shoot them all or stop them,’” Graeme Gibbon-Brooks, managing director of Dryad Maritime Intelligence Service in Britain, said of the pirates. “You have the might of international navies, and you can’t end this?”

But sending in more warships is like “sticking a Band-Aid on a gunshot wound,” he said. “The fact is, what you see at sea is a manifestation of the

problems ashore in Somalia.”

The Islamic country of 8 million people disintegrated in 1991 when warlords toppled the president. Since then, it’s been ruled by heavily armed rival clans, hit by famine, and suffered relentless outbreaks of street-fighting that turned it into a no-go zone for most foreigners.

The U.S. dispatched troops in 1992 as part of a U.N. relief operation to feed hordes of hungry civilians, but the Americans became entangled in local clan warfare. Months later, militias shot down two helicopters and killed 18 American soldiers in a battle recounted in the book and movie “Black Hawk Down.”

Images of gunmen dragging the bodies of U.S. soldiers through Mogadishu became an icon for those opposed to U.S. involvement overseas. Then-President Bill Clinton ordered a U.S. withdrawal and promised no troops would be deployed there again unless there was a clear U.S. national interest.

## Iran says US journalist tried behind closed doors

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)**—Iran said Tuesday its national security court put an American journalist on trial behind closed doors on allegations she spied for the U.S.—a charge Washington calls baseless.

The unusually swift one-day trial threatened to anger the U.S. at a time when the Obama administration is showing willingness to engage its longtime adversary after many years of rocky relations.

Roxana Saberi, a 31-year-old dual American-Iranian citizen, was arrested in late January and initially accused of working without press credentials. But an Iranian judge leveled a far more serious allegation against her last week, charging her with spying for the United States.



This undated photo provided Tuesday, March 3, 2009 by the National Press Photographers Association shows U.S. journalist Roxana Saberi.

“Yesterday, the first trial session was held. She presented her final defense,” judiciary

spokesman Ali Reza Jamshidi told reporters. “The court will issue its verdict within the next two to three weeks.”

It was unclear why the trial was moving at such a fast pace—especially because the charges leveled against Saberi were so serious. Under Iranian law, those convicted of spying normally face up to 10 years in prison.

Saberi has been living in Iran for the last six years, working as a freelance reporter for news organizations including National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Corp. Her father has said his daughter, who grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, was finishing a book on Iran and had planned to return to the United States this year.

Her lawyer, Abdolsamad

Khorramshahi, said he was not authorized to speak to the media about the trial, which he was permitted to attend.

“I will comment only after the verdict is issued,” he told The Associated Press.

Washington has described the charges as “baseless” and has repeatedly called for Saberi’s release. Last week, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the United States was “deeply concerned” about the espionage charges.

State Department spokesman Robert Wood said Tuesday that the U.S. is committed to getting Saberi released.

“We remain very concerned about her situation,” he said.

But Jamshidi criticized the U.S. for saying Saberi was innocent and calling for her release.

## Fidel Castro calls US changes positive but minimal

**HAVANA (AP)**—Fidel Castro said Tuesday the Obama administration’s softening of sanctions is “positive although minimal,” and criticized it for leaving in place the embargo that bars most trade and travel between the two countries.

The White House announced Monday that Americans will now be able to make unlimited transfers of money and visits to relatives in Cuba. Under Bush administration rules, Cuban-

Americans were eligible to travel here only every three years and send up to \$300 to relatives every three months.

Monday’s action eliminated those limits in the hope that less dependence on their government will lead Cubans to demand progress on political freedoms.

Many in Cuba saw the changes as a humanitarian gesture.

“You can imagine what it is like to have a marriage by tele-

phone,” Berta Maria Mayor said Tuesday as she awaited the charter plane carrying her husband back to Cuba for the first time in three years. “I’m in love with someone I barely get to see,” the 45-year-old added.

Mayor said she hoped her husband could visit several times a year, although family finances are tight after his layoff from a Florida shirt factory job three months ago.

Castro responded to the

measures in an online column Monday night, writing that the U.S. had announced the repeal of “several hateful restrictions,” but had stopped short of real change.

“Of the blockade, which is the cruelest of measures, not a word was uttered,” the 82-year-old former president wrote.

Castro noted that several U.S. senators favor lifting the trade embargo and urged Obama to seize the opportunity.

## Man is jailed for spraying urine, feces on food in UK

**LONDON (AP)**—An unemployed chemist was jailed Tuesday for spraying a mix of urine and feces on food, wine and children’s books in several British stores. Sahnoun Daifallah was sentenced to nine years in prison after being found guilty of four counts of contaminating goods.

The 42-year-old Algerian carried a mix of his waste in a container of weed killer concealed in a laptop bag, a court found. Using the nozzle, which poked out of the bag, Daifallah was able to spray large areas, leaving a powerful stench and causing tens of thousands of pounds (dollars) worth of damage.

Daifallah’s first target was The Air Balloon pub and restaurant near Cheltenham in western England, which he visited around lunchtime on May 14. Kate Rothead, on duty that day,

told The Associated Press she didn’t know exactly what area he sprayed.

“All we know was that it was a horrendous smell that was left behind,” she said.

Daifallah next visited a bookstore in neighboring Cirencester, dousing hundreds of books—most of them in the children’s section.

Two days later he struck in the nearby suburban area of Quedgeley, where a customer spotted him squirting the frozen french fries at a supermarket. Daifallah then drove four miles (six kilometers) to another supermarket, where an employee in the wine section noticed him acting suspiciously and reported an overpowering stench. Both supermarkets were closed for two days for cleaning. Shoppers reported suffering from rashes and nausea.



# Environment

## Learning about bacteria through food science

By VALRICK WELCH  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Some 25 San Vicente Elementary School teachers and administrators, along with five parents, recently participated in a Saturday food science workshop.

San Vicente teachers know that a science lesson plan includes the standard/s and benchmarks to be covered, not a textbook chapter and page. The purpose of the workshop was to assist in making standard and benchmark aligned science lesson plans that use hands-on activities, use readily available materials and resources, and promote awareness of the uniqueness of Saipan and the local culture.

The workshop began with a warm-up activity that ended when the instructor received an urgent cell phone call about dangerous bacteria that was on some of the tables in the cafeteria. Luckily, among the participants were two bacteria detectives, who were able to use special lights to quickly identify the people who were contaminated.

The bacterium was really a powder that glows under a black light. Most of the participants had the power on them including people who were not sitting at the tables where the powder had been applied, demonstrating how quickly something such as bacteria can be transferred.

Another activity had participants work in groups to make lesson plans that are hands-on activities and focus on a specific standard and benchmark/s. Some examples include:

- Reading a story about bees and then observing bees (This teacher had a beehive that the bees made inside the wood of her classroom before the condemned building was torn down).
- Catching tadpoles and watch them grow into frogs.
- Observe and classify fish.
- Have a native navigator teach about celestial navigation.
- Student adopt a plant activity.
- Tap on the side of the classroom aquarium before feeding the fish for a week, and then observe what happens



Parents and teachers attending the food science professional development workshop.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Preparing Petri dishes with hamburger swabs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Ms. Brett double-checking the procedures for the activity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

when the glass is tapped on and no food is given.

The culminating activity was called "bacteria everywhere." Participants were shown how to take and prepare a bacteria culture. Cultures were taken from different areas of the school including the time clock, water dispenser, student food tray, bottom of a shoe, and a computer keyboard. Luckily the student tray did not show a lot of bacteria growth; however, it is not recommended to eat food from the time clock, bottom of a shoe, or a computer keyboard. The final part of this activity involved taking bacteria cultures from raw hamburger, and then hamburger cooked to 120 (49 C), 140 (60 C), and 160 (71 C) degrees Fahrenheit. The cultured bacteria were allowed to grow until the next Wednesday's staff meeting where they were put on display. The raw hamburger showed the most bacteria and the others had bacteria, with the exception of the hamburger cooked to 160 F which showed no bacteria growth.

San Vicente Elementary would like to thank the Food and Drug Administration for providing the food science kits and for training the instructor. They would also like to thank the Commonwealth Health Center for providing the expired Petri dishes, and the Administration for Native Americans for funding the training.

The Petri dishes are labeled and lined up for hamburger samples at different temperatures.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## EPA outs new rules for Energy Star computer monitors, picture frames

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is announcing new requirements for computer monitors, digital picture frames and other displays to earn the Energy Star label. On average, Energy Star qualified products will be 20 percent more energy efficient than conventional options.

If all displays sold in the United States meet this new specification, the energy savings would grow to about \$1 billion each year and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from nearly 1.5 million vehicles.

To earn the label, the new specification includes a revision of existing requirements for computer monitors to a more stringent level, the fifth revision since products in this category have been eligible for the Energy Star label. EPA has also expanded the range of display products eligible for the label. In addition to computer monitors, digital picture frames and large commercial displays (up to 60 inches diagonal) can now qualify for the label when demonstrated to meet

the energy efficiency requirements.

Digital picture frames offer an impressive opportunity for energy savings. It is estimated that 9.3 million digital picture frames were shipped in 2008 and by 2015 the number could more than double. Savings from digital picture frames represent about 10 percent of the total potential savings in this product area. Large displays are typically used in public and private settings such as restaurants, bars, hotels, clubs, museums, and educational settings, and outdoor environments in retail or transportation signage. Savings from large displays represent about 70 percent of the total potential savings in this product area.

The specification for displays less than 30 inches diagonal will be effective October 30, 2009. The specification for displays 30-60 inches diagonal will be effective on January 1, 2010.

More information on Energy Star labeled display products: <http://www.energystar.gov/monitors>. (EPA)

## Some food-borne illnesses on the rise

By LINDSAY LAYTON  
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

**WASHINGTON**—The number of food-borne illnesses in the United States has remained stagnant over the last three years, and, in some cases, has been on the upswing, giving new urgency to efforts to reform the nation's food safety system, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in a study released Thursday.

"We need greater effort at all stages of movement of food in the food chain from farm to table" to prevent bacterial contamination, said Robert Tauxe, deputy director of the CDC's Division of Food-borne, Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases.

Since 1996, the agency has been collecting data from 10 states on the number of people diagnosed with infections caused by eight bacteria and three parasites found in food. After

registering drops in several of the illnesses until about 2004, they began rising again or have stayed constant. Those include illnesses those caused by salmonella, vibrio, E. coli 0157, listeria and campylobacter.

Preliminary 2008 data shows that infection rates for five food-borne illnesses exceeded national goals set by the CDC. In the case of salmonella, the national goal in 2008 was 7 illnesses for every 100,000 people, but the actual number was 16—more than twice the goal. The data did not include the ongoing national outbreak of salmonella illness linked to peanut products that began in late 2008 but peaked in the early months of 2009, with nearly 700 people sickened and nine killed.

Tauxe said several factors are behind the trend, including the intricacy of the U.S. food chain, the changing nature of bacteria and rising imports.

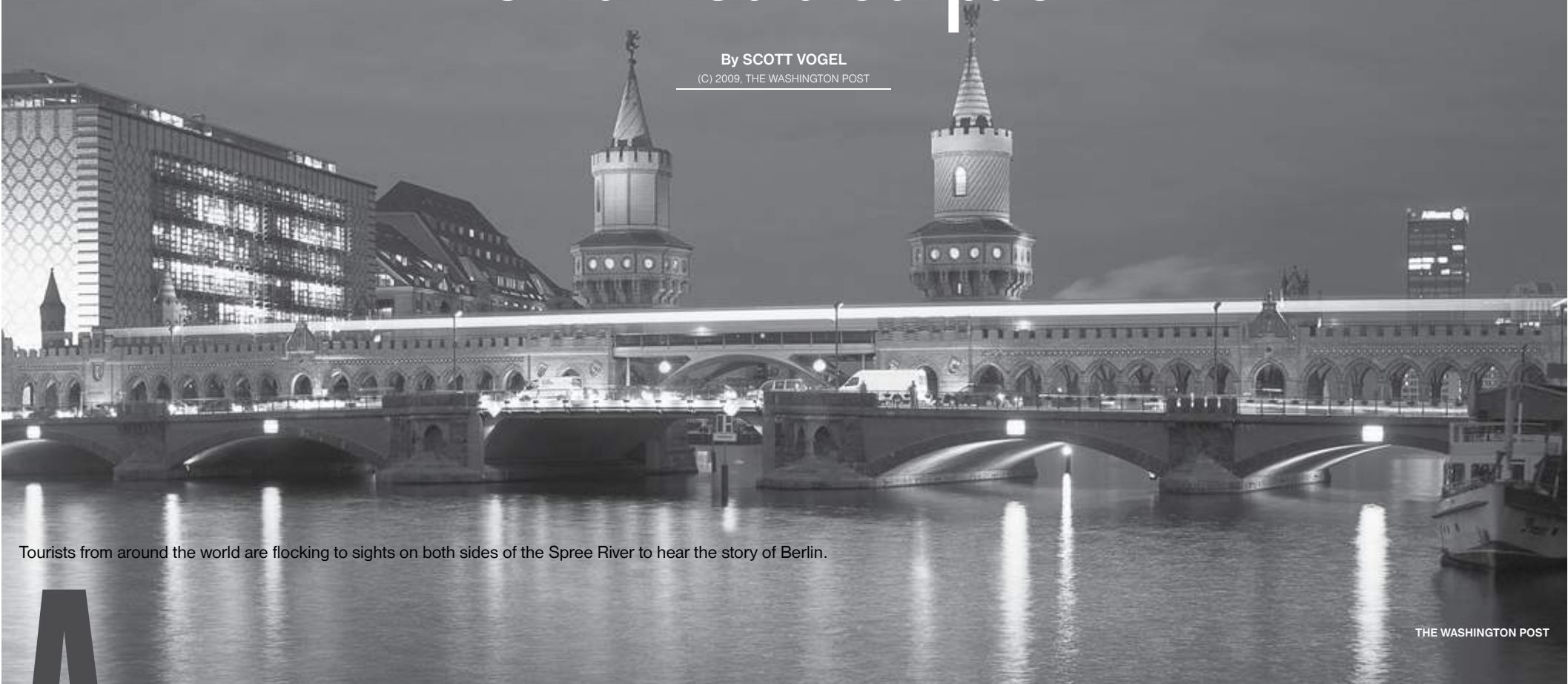
"It reflects the complexity of the

problem with many different foods becoming potentially contaminated, including more fresh produce. It reflects that fact that pathogens like E.Coli 0157 and salmonella can spread in the environment and contaminate a number of different foods, some of which we have not seen in the past," Tauxe said. "And the food industry is also complicated and changing with a variety of different arenas and components from all over the world."

Children under 4 years old are particularly hard hit by food-borne pathogens, and adults over 50 are most likely to be hospitalized and to die from related illnesses, the study found. Children can become ill from some of the bacteria simply by riding in shopping carts that are carrying raw poultry and meats, living with pet turtles or reptiles, or from day care facilities, where other children or care providers are not adequately washing their hands, Tauxe said.



## Life &amp; Style

In Berlin, building a future  
on a troubled pastBy SCOTT VOGEL  
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST


Tourists from around the world are flocking to sights on both sides of the Spree River to hear the story of Berlin.

THE WASHINGTON POST

All right, who is interested in touring the nuclear fallout shelter?" asked the young, bespectacled museum guide. It was 4:30, the last tour of the day, and she had been on her feet for hours. With a little luck, no hands would go up.

Every hand went up. The woman uttered a deep, vaguely melodramatic sigh.

"All right. Follow me. Please."

We tiptoed behind her, all 25 of us, out the doors of the Story of Berlin—the museum with the on-the-nose title—and onto the Kurfurstendamm, once a bastion of louche bars and Sally Bowles-ready night life, later a bastion of Berlin capitalism when its first name was West, now a bastion of Japanese tour groups and general ho-humness. (At least by comparison with a real fallout shelter, that is.)

Undaunted by our leader's ennui, the group crowded into a stairwell off the adjacent parking garage and descended several flights, our skin growing clammy with every step. At last we were herded into a small, dimly lit room. "Please undress completely and then shower," read a large sign on the wall, in English. We appealed to our guide.

"The German sign fell down," she said languidly, returning to her spiel. "The car park above your heads was built in 1974. As part of the deal, the owner was given financial incentives to build this shelter. It was designed to hold an absolute maximum of 3,600 people for a maximum amount of time of 14 days."

"This would be used if there was a nuclear war?" asked an Italian man



THE WASHINGTON POST

An exhibit at the DDR Museum portrays the grim reality of the Berlin Wall, which fell 20 years ago.

in heavily accented English.

"Uh-huh," said the guide.

"But what if you came in when the attack had already started? Would they let you in?" he continued.

The group did a collective pan left to the guide, who uttered another deep sigh. She seemed to be struggling to stifle a sarcastic response. Then, quietly:

"Yes, but you would need to shower first."

Someday, soon perhaps, Berliners will tire of the whole Cold War tourism thing, their fatigue exploding into retorts like "What the hell makes you think this fallout shelter would have made a hill-of-beans difference in a nuclear war, for God's sake!!!"

But don't worry, we haven't got-

ten there yet. For now, the residents of the German capital are content to be patient with us, aware that the excitement and energy of their city—and it truly is the most exciting city in Europe at present—are due in no small part to its unabashed, dedicated absorption in past insanities.

"Here are the 3,600 beds," said the guide, leading us into a cavernous room bathed in a purplish glow. ("The ultraviolet light would hopefully kill the germs.") Rows of identical canvas cots piled four- and five-high—little trampolines, really—extended into an infinity of darkness. This was the room where thousands would supposedly ride out the storm, waiting contentedly for the bombs to stop falling

and the radiation to dissipate.

At least 25 shelters like this one were built in West Berlin, according to our guide, and to say there's an impossible-to-describe horror to them is to risk gross understatement. But they also have a kind of, well, ingenuity to them, just as the Berlin Wall had an ingenuity, albeit of a crueler sort.

"The wall had a German perfection," concedes a man in the film shown at the entrance to the House at Checkpoint Charlie, an unfancy and enthralling museum in another part of town on the Friedrichstrasse. The perfection in question was a 96-mile-long, 12-foot-high structure that was erected seemingly overnight in 1961, sealing off East from West in an instant. Later this year Germany will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the wall's sudden, gleeful demise in 1989—indeed, the country's celebrating already—but the Checkpoint Charlie house has been having a celebration of sorts for years. A celebration of the ingenious lengths people will go to to escape oppression, that is.

"Why is she in those suitcases?" asked a young girl with a laugh, if I understood the German right, pointing to an exhibit with a female mannequin whose top half was in one suitcase and the lower in an adjacent one. Her mother explained that with the suitcases placed close together, their common sides could be removed, making it easier for a refugee to hide in the trunk of a car.

Not far away from the pair was a

See IN BERLIN on next page

## DETAILS

By SCOTT VOGEL  
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

The biggest events will be in November, when the city will mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, but celebrations and commemorations throughout Germany are ongoing. (The sheer number of events is staggering. A 28-page guide to them can be downloaded at [www.cometogermany.com](http://www.cometogermany.com).)

Berlin's city museum, The Story of Berlin, is a good place to start (Kurfurstendamm 207-208, 011-49-30-88-72-01-00, [www.story-of-berlin.de](http://www.story-of-berlin.de)), and the closest stop to the museum on the city's U-bahn subway system is Uhlandstrasse ([www.bvg.de](http://www.bvg.de)). Admission, which includes a guided tour in English of the adjacent nuclear fallout shelter, is about \$13; open daily 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

The House at Checkpoint Charlie (Friedrichstrasse 43-45, 011-49-30-25-37-25-0, [www.mauermuseum.de](http://www.mauermuseum.de)) has a marvelous collection of artifacts. The closest subway stop is Kochstrasse. Admission about \$16.50; open daily 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

Expect crowds at the small DDR Museum (Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse 1, 011-49-30-84-71-23-73-1, [www.ddr-museum.de](http://www.ddr-museum.de)). Admission about \$7.25; open daily 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (Saturdays until 10 p.m.). The closest subway stop is Hackescher Markt.



# Smithsonian picks black history museum designer

WASHINGTON (AP)—A glowing bronze crown meant to evoke historical imagery of African-Americans emerged Tuesday as the winning architectural concept for a new black history museum on the National Mall.

A Smithsonian Institution jury selected the team Freelon Adjaye Bond, in association with SmithGroup, from six finalists in a design competition to build the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

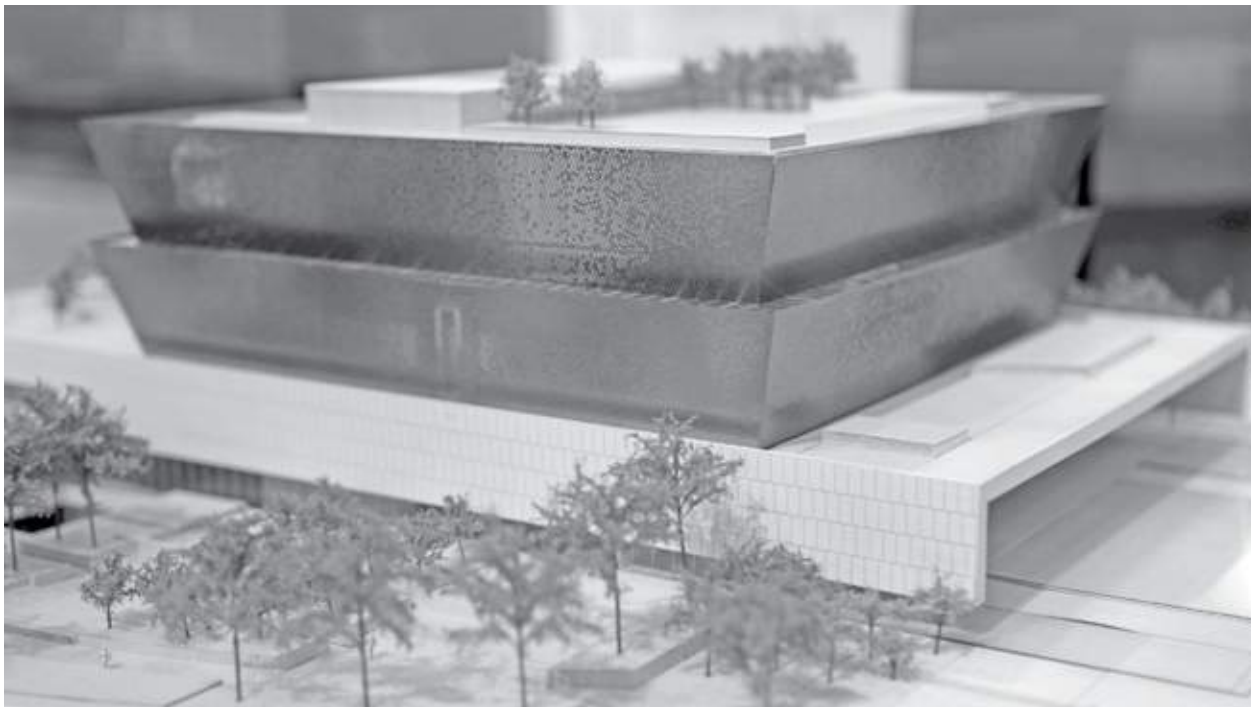
Members of the group previously designed San Francisco's Museum of the African Diaspora and the Nobel Peace Centre in Oslo, Norway.

The bronze, layered corona atop a stone base would be the defining element of the structure, which could be the last major building added to the expanse between the U.S. Capitol and Washington Monument.

"I think it definitely gave us a very clear position that was different to the other schemes," said lead designer David Adjaye, 42, who was born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and is now based in London and New York. His parents are both from Ghana. "We are celebrating an incredible journey and looking to the future."

The crown concept, which would allow natural light to flow into the structure through bronze screens, was inspired by images from African and American history, Adjaye said, "this idea of uplifted praise sort of imagery."

It evokes traditional headdresses worn by African-American women, as well as the colonial crown from Africa and the idea "that a hat-wearing person is a free



In this Friday, March 27, 2009 file photo, the design concept for the National Museum of African American History and Culture submitted by Freelon Adjaye Bond/ SmithGroup is seen in Washington.

person ... who doesn't have to carry a load but could wear a hat," he said.

The bronze exterior would have a "dynamic and changing view," depending on the sun's angle and cloud cover. At night, it would glow with light emerging from its skin, the architects said.

Adjaye, who designed the Nobel Centre in Norway, said winning the National Mall project is the defining moment of his career.

The design process will take up to three years and is subject to approval from groups that oversee architecture

in the nation's capital. Construction is expected to begin in 2012, with an opening slated for 2015.

Congress has pledged to provide half of the museum's \$500 million cost, with private fundraising to cover the rest.

Museum Director Lonnie Bunch said he was looking for a building that would speak of the resiliency, optimism and spirituality of the African-American community.

"This does it," Bunch said, standing near a model of the proposed design. The shimmering bronze, he said, "talks

of a people's presence, regardless of what happens," and will mark a change in Washington architecture.

"Even though it's geometric, it still breaks the kind of neoclassical formality of the rest of the mall," Bunch said. "I think that's a good thing to come."

The Freelon Bond group was familiar to Smithsonian officials, who had contracted it to determine the structural needs for the museum's galleries and theaters and presented the plan to all of the competing teams.

J. Max Bond Jr., a principal on the

team's planning phase and a prominent black architect, died of cancer in February.

Philip G. Freelon, a North Carolina-based principal of the team, said the museum would complement the mall and its tallest neighbor, the Washington Monument.

"We're not looking to mimic what's around us but to complement the mall and the buildings around and also to create a statement of our own," he said, and the design will evolve. "It's not a building yet; it's an idea."

Freelon has designed prior black history projects, including Baltimore's Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture.

The six finalists for the project will remain on view at the Smithsonian Castle through Thursday. Visitors had mixed reactions to the various concepts, which all depart from the mostly boxy museums of Washington.

Margaret Gass, 56, of Carlisle, Iowa, got a peak at the designs while visiting her son in Washington.

"It's stark," Gass said of the winning design concept, adding that it was not her favorite. Still, she said, "it's different enough to be recognizable."

She preferred an oval-shaped design from a team led by acclaimed architect Sir Norman Foster of London. But her son, Charles Bibilos, 31, said the winning design could be a good fit for the city.

"I think this is conservative enough for the mall," he said. "As a building, I think it fits a little bit better with everything else that's going on on the mall."

## IN BERLIN

From Page 18

deflated hot-air balloon, the one that eight East Germans employed to float over the wall in 1979. In another corner was the pair of hollowed-out surfboards that a Stuttgart mechanic fastened to the roof of his car in 1987, creating a compartment large enough to smuggle his girlfriend to freedom; in still another, the welding machine that meant freedom for 29 people who hid inside it during border crossings in the early '70s. Nearby, too, is a mini-submarine, the first sub ever with a gasoline-powered internal combustion engine, according to the museum. The contraption went just 3 mph in rough waters, but somehow its inventor managed to cross the Baltic Sea in it, escaping the old German Democratic Republic, or DDR, via Denmark.

Which brings us back to the fallout shelter.

"The point was to survive," said the guide, leading us past the 3,600 cots to the restroom that was to be shared by up to 800 men at a time, and the kitchen once stocked with plenty of provisions for your garden-variety two-week nuclear war.

"What about the people who came in after the attack started?" asked the Italian man, still stumping for his contingent. "Would there be food for them?"

At this, the guide turned her attention from the man to me, glaring. Can't you do anything to stop this, her look said. I shrugged helplessly. She turned back to the man.

"They would have to—actually, I

don't know," the guide sputtered, turning and motioning us down a hallway.

Maybe it's nostalgia for a crisis that we know ended happily, but tourists from around the world are flocking to Berlin these days, clamoring to hear its story told over and over again. Inevitably, then, Cold War commemoration has become something of a cottage industry, which means you get everything

munist Germany remains a mystery to most of us; and the museum somehow manages to be both critical and respectful of the place, even in the face of its almost epic drabness.

Black-and-white news footage from the early days of the wall plays in an endless loop, capturing the initial confusion felt by Germans of all stripes. "We've moved out of a beautiful re-



THE WASHINGTON POST

A section of the Berlin Wall is now an outdoor gallery whose artists do not treat the former Communist leaders lightly.

from Christmas ornaments with pieces of the wall inside to such elaborate efforts as the DDR Museum.

The latter, just across the Spree River from the Berlin Cathedral, likes to refer to itself as a "hands-on experience of the everyday life of a state long gone," even if the state in question is East Germany, which isn't quite 20 years gone. Point well taken, though. For all its proximity in time and space, Com-

gion only to find ourselves in a world of concrete," says one bewildered woman who has relocated to East Berlin from the provinces.

Disillusionment is given the light-hearted treatment in an exhibit devoted to the Trabant, East Germany's adorably misbegotten attempt at competing with the VW Beetle (itself a product of the Nazi era that soared to worldwide popularity under West German owner-

ship). Museum visitors take turns trying to start the notoriously unreliable car, whose body was made of something called Duroplast — an unhappy amalgamation of plastic and, believe it or not, cotton fleece—and which nevertheless often boasted a 16-year waiting list.

German engineering is also delicately scrutinized in an exhibit devoted to the Palast der Republik, a parliament building and the most expensive structure ever built in East Germany, now demolished. (During its construction in the '70s, 5,000 tons of spray asbestos were used, even though the connection between asbestos and cancer had already been well established.)

Then there's the museum's detailed examination of the group potty bench that was standard equipment in East German preschools, a long trough with several holes in it meant to teach toddlers both communal toilet training and, apparently, submission to the will of the masses.

Which brings us back to the fallout shelter.

"Is this the only men's bathroom?" asked a woman in our group, referring to a sad series of stalls lost in a purple haze.

"Yes," the guide answered. "As you see, you would not be allowed to wash yourself, and there are no showers."

Both the guide and I instinctively turned to the Italian man for some reason, but he said nothing.

"And it would be smelly and hot in here, 32 degrees (Celsius) and high humidity."

Still nothing. And with that, the guide broke into a smile no one knew she had.

"OK, that concludes the tour."

## How to pack light; trading currency

Whether you're packing for summer vacation, a business trip or a weekend getaway, consider a few ideas for lightening your load:

- Even if you'll be gone more than a week, only pack one week's worth of clothes. You can wash your essentials in hotel sinks or at local laundromats or utilize your hotel's laundry service.

- Mix-and-match and layer clothes, and pack wrinkle-free items when possible.

- Pack toiletries in small containers. While air travel requires you to pack only one quart bag of three-ounce containers of liquids in carry-on baggage, bringing smaller bottles on any kind of trip means less weight and bulk in your bag.

- Forget workout clothes. Visiting cities and amusement parks means you'll do a lot of walking, which will give you enough exercise that you can skip that morning jog.

- Minimize books and electronics. Copy or tear out guidebook pages you'll need, use multitasking electronics and limit your reading to paperbacks or books you buy while traveling.

■ ■ ■ ■

If you've been holding on to your French francs or Maltese Lira, you might consider trading them in for dollars or Euros. The Currency Commission ([www.currencycommission.com](http://www.currencycommission.com)) will buy back 14 expired currencies. Fill out a form online, and send it in with your bills (no coins). The company will mail you a check in one to two weeks. (*The Washington Post*)



# Jackson's stuff not for sale following settlement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's glove is not going once, going twice—or going anywhere.

A scheduled auction of the pop singer's possessions was called off Tuesday after Jackson and Julien's Auction House reached a settlement to their dispute over whether 2,000 items from Neverland Ranch were ever intended for sale.

Specific terms were not disclosed. But in short, Jackson keeps his things, while Julien's keeps its exhibition, which was open to the public and originally meant to promote next week's sale.

"There was so much interest from so many of Jackson's fans that instead of putting the items in the hands of private collectors, Dr. Tohme and Julien's Auction House have made arrangements that will allow the collection to be shared with and enjoyed by Jackson's fans for many years to come," read a joint statement from Jackson spokesman Dr. Tohme R. Tohme and auction organizer Darren Julien.

Jackson's production company, MJJ Productions, sued Julien in early March, seeking to halt the sale by arguing that Jackson hadn't authorized it. Ju-



Michael Jackson's white crystal glove is seen on display at the Julien's Auctions Michael Jackson exhibit in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Monday, April 13, 2009.

lien maintained that the auction house was contracted by Jackson's production company to take all of the items from Neverland with the intention of selling them all beginning April 22.

A judge blocked one effort by MJJ Productions to cancel it earlier this month, and another was scheduled to hear arguments Wednesday for an injunction.

"I believe both sides are pleased with the resolution," Julien said Tuesday by telephone. Julien has said he spent \$2 million organizing the sale, which another auctioneer estimated could have fetched \$12 million. The exhibition in Beverly Hills costs \$20 to attend, and auction catalogues—a \$50 single volume and \$200, five-volume boxed set—were still selling, Julien said. The statement also said MJJ Productions and Julien's Auction House would be making a "substantial" donation to MusiCares to benefit artists in need.

Julien said all of Jackson's possessions, which the auction house took directly from the Neverland Ranch property, would be returned to the pop singer. He would not say where they would be taken.

"It's been our hopes to resolve

this in the beginning, when the lawsuit was filed," Julien said. "It was in our best interest to resolve it. We continue to have great respect for Michael Jackson. ... I guess you could call it the greatest auction that never happened."

The singer has struggled financially following his arrest in 2003 on charges that he molested a 13-year-old boy. A jury acquitted him of all charges.

Last year he faced foreclosure on Neverland, the 2,500-acre property nestled in the hills of Santa Barbara County's wine country, 120 miles northwest of Los Angeles. He was bailed out by Colony Capital, and months later transferred the deed to Neverland to another entity he partially controls. Jackson plans a series of concerts in London in July that he has said will be his last in the British capital.

Julien has been entrusted to preside over numerous auctions of famous memorabilia. Some recent celebrity sales have included items once belonging to Ozzy Osbourne, Bob Hope and rare behind-the-scenes footage of Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable on the set of the film "The Misfits."

## RI judge blocks Richard Hatch's Argentina request

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A federal judge has rejected "Survivor" winner Richard Hatch's request to live in Argentina after he's released from prison on a tax evasion conviction.

Hatch is imprisoned in West Virginia for failing to pay taxes on the \$1 million prize he won on the hit CBS reality show's debut season.

Hatch is scheduled to be released next month and had asked a judge's permission to serve his period of supervised release in Argentina. His request was denied Monday.

He said he is married to an Argentine national whose family is unable to travel to the United States. He said he's stayed out of trouble in prison and has a right to pursue business opportunities in South America.

Hatch, who was sentenced to four years and three months in prison, last month asked a judge to free him immediately.

He argued that he was innocent, represented by ineffective lawyers and that a judge improperly calculated his prison sentence. Federal prosecutors have not yet responded to his request.

## 'American Idol' switches up judging format

NEWYORK (AP)—"American Idol" tried to end on time Tuesday, implementing a format that allowed only two judges to review a singer.

Host Ryan Seacrest explained: "We're working in teams tonight, so we make it in on time."

Judge Simon Cowell said they had to do it that way because fellow female panelists Paula Abdul and Kara Dioguardi talked too much last week.

Still, the popular Fox talent contest ran three minutes over schedule.

Last Tuesday's show ran over by eight minutes. Judges did not have time to comment on Adam Lambert's rendition of "Mad World."

The division of labor: Cowell and Abdul judged Lambert, Lil Rounds, Danny Gokey and Alli-

son Iraheta. Dioguardi and Randy Jackson reviewed Anoop Desai, Matt Giraud and Kris Allen.

The night's theme: songs of the cinema.

Filmmaker Quentin Tarantino, an "Idol" superfan who appeared as a judge on the series' third season, was a guest mentor.

This time, Lambert performed in the middle of the telecast, thereby avoiding the danger of getting clipped by viewer recording devices.

The 27-year-old actor sang "Born to Be Wild"—and, as usual, Abdul went wild. She said Lambert dares "to dance the path of greatness." Cowell was less enthusiastic, saying Lambert's edgy take on the song from the classic 1969 film "Easy Rider" reminded him of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"

and might polarize people.

On the other extreme, Cowell said he was "bored" by Gokey's version of "Endless Love" from the 1981 romance of the same name. But he called the smokey-voiced Milwaukee native a "brilliant singer." The Cowell-Abdul team enjoyed Iraheta's Aerosmith cover of "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" from the 1998 blockbuster "Armageddon," while the Jackson-Dioguardi duo heaped praise on Desai for his soulful take on the Bryan Adams ballad "(Everything I Do) I Do It For You" from 1991's "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves."

Jackson and Dioguardi were on the same page in reviewing Giraud, who sang Adams' "Have You Ever Really Loved a Woman?" from the 1994 movie

"Don Juan DeMarco." They agreed it wasn't his best performance; Cowell, meanwhile, opened his mouth like he had something to say.

Rounds, 24, of Memphis, was left in the lurch once more.

She endured another round of criticism, this time for her rendition of the title anthem from 1979's "The Rose."

"There's no excuses anymore—you're not the artist we met" earlier in the competition, Cowell said.

Rounds argued back, saying she tried to inject some soul into the Bette Midler song.

"Don't ever be afraid to say what you feel, Lil," Abdul soothed. "Those who matter don't mind."

And that's where the show cut off.

## Mexican pop diva sues TV network for defamation

McALLEN, Texas (AP)—Mexican pop diva Gloria Trevi is accusing a Mexican television network and the host of one of the country's most popular entertainment television shows of conspiring to attack her reputation, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday.

Trevi's lawsuit, filed in Hidalgo County district court, named Mexican network TV Azteca, its U.S. affiliate Azteca America and Pati Chapoy, host of "Ventaneando," a popular entertainment news show specializing in celebrity exposes. The lawsuit seeks damages that have yet to be specified, said her lawyer, Raymond Thomas.

Trevi was an international pop superstar until police arrested her, her manager and a backup singer in 2000, accusing them of luring young girls into their entourage and sexually abusing them. Trevi spent almost five years in prisons in Brazil and Mexico before she was acquitted on charges of kidnapping, rape and corruption of minors.

Her lawsuit claims the TV network tried to stop her comeback through a campaign of slander, libel and defamation, among other charges, as retribution for her refusing to sign with them. It accused the network of spreading rumors that Trevi was spotted with a notorious drug cartel leader, forcing her to move her family to McAllen where she began to resurrect her career.

In dramatic flourishes rarely

seen in legal filings, the lawsuit said the defendants were "determined to prevent Gloria Trevi from rising from the ashes like the fabled Phoenix."

The lawsuit was filed in the United States where alleged programs aired and because Texas law states that defamation lawsuits should be filed where the plaintiff lives, said Thomas.

Calls for comment to Azteca



Trevi

America and TV Azteca were not immediately returned.

Trevi said Tuesday that she thought the media attacks would stop after her acquittal.

"And as a mother, I see myself in the situation of doing what any mother would do," Trevi said. "I am going to protect my family and my children against whatever."

Trevi gained fame in the 1990s as Mexico's Madonna, with songs of sexual independence, provocative dance moves and a look that included a wild mane of hair and often ripped tights.

## 'Harry Potter' sweeps into theaters 2 days early

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harry Potter and his school chums are heading back to class a little sooner than expected.

"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" now is opening Wednesday, July 15, two days earlier than its previous release date, Warner Bros. head of distribution Dan Fellman said Tuesday.

That gives the movie a head-start on the weekend during what's shaping up as a highly competitive summer season for Hollywood, which has major franchise films opening virtually every week.

"Every day the kids are out of school in summer is just like an extra Saturday," Fellman said.

Warner Bros. also opened the franchise's most recent release, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," on a Wednesday in July 2007.

It's the second date change for the sixth installment in the adventures of the boy wizard. "Half-Blood Prince" had been scheduled for release last fall until the studio bumped it to this July to take advantage of an open weekend in the busy summer lineup.

The franchise stars Daniel Radcliffe as Harry, with Emma Watson and Rupert Grint as his best pals at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.



In this image released by Warner Bros., Emma Watson, center, Daniel Radcliffe, right, and Rupert Grint are shown in a scene from "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."



# Jamie Foxx makes crude radio rant on Miley Cyrus



**NEW YORK (AP)**—Jamie Foxx launched a crude attack on teen sensation Miley Cyrus on his Sirius satellite radio show, saying: “Make a sex tape and grow up!” It’s not clear when the comments were made. But the insults began flying after someone brought up the 16-year-old’s recent feud with Radiohead after Cyrus wasn’t allowed to hang out with the

band after the Grammys.

Foxx is heard saying: “Who is Miley Cyrus? The one with all the gums? She need to get a gum transplant!”

He also says: “Make a sex tape and grow up!” A woman is heard calling Cyrus the b-word.

There’s been no comment from representatives for Cyrus or the 41-year-old actor, who is the father of a teenage daughter.

In this Nov. 23, 2008, file photo, Actor Jamie Foxx poses on the press line at the 2008 American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

## Lohan makes mock dating service ad

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Lindsay Lohan is on the prowl again. The much-gossiped-about starlet has made a mock dating service video posted on comedy Web site FunnyOrDie.com. Lohan, 22, recently said that she and DJ Samantha Ronson are taking a “brief break.”

The video, posted Tuesday, is in the guise of an eHarmony ad. Lohan says she’s “recently single ... I think.” She says she’s looking for someone to

spend the rest of her life with, “or at least the rest of my probation with.”

Lohan pokes fun at herself, saying she’s looking for the perfect mate who likes long walks on the beach, car chases on the Pacific Coast Highway, “antiquing and passing out in Cadillac Escalades.”

A spokeswoman for FunnyOrDie, co-founded by Will Ferrell, says the video was shot last weekend.

In this Oct. 30, 2008 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan attends FEARnet’s 2nd anniversary party at The Cellar Bar in New York.

AP



## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Crespo not facing charges for alleged sex act

**MIAMI (AP)**—Authorities have reviewed evidence but have chosen not to file charges against Grammy Award-winner Elvis Crespo, who is accused of performing a sex act on an airplane en route from Houston to Miami. A U.S. Attorney’s Office spokeswoman would not say whether charges could still be filed. On March 19, a passenger told police she was sitting next to Crespo when he began to masturbate and expose himself. After the plane landed, Crespo told authorities at Miami International Airport that he “did not remember doing that.” Officers interviewed the merengue star upon his arrival but did not arrest him. The 37-year-old Puerto Rican singer posted a message on MySpace for his fans saying he knows the accusations are “very serious, but they are false and time will be my best ally.”

### Late George Harrison gets Hollywood star

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Hundreds of fans and friends including Paul McCartney have turned out to see a posthumous star for George Harrison unveiled on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The late Beatle’s star was unveiled Tuesday in front of the Capitol Records building as McCartney,

one of only two surviving members of the band, looked on. McCartney also offered a shout-out to hundreds of raucous fans, thanking them for showing up. Also present were Harrison’s widow Olivia, his son Dhani, musicians Tom Petty and Jeff Lynne and actor Tom Hanks. Harrison died of lung cancer in 2001 at age 58.

### Dee Dee Ramone’s estate executor sues over book

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The executor of Dee Dee Ramone’s estate has gone to court to stop publication of a book about the late punk rocker by his first wife. Ira Herzog says Vera Davie of Port St. Lucie, Fla., violated an agreement to let him review and change anything she wrote about the bassist. Herzog’s lawsuit in Manhattan’s state Supreme Court uses Ramone’s real name, Douglas Glenn Colvin. Colvin was with the Ramones from their creation in 1974 until 1989. He died in June 2002 at age 50 in Los Angeles. Davie’s book is “Poisoned Heart: I Married Dee Dee Ramone,” published by Phoenix Books of Beverly Hills under the pen name Vera Ramone King.

### NBC renews ‘Law & Order: Special Victims Unit’

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—NBC is renewing “Law & Order:

Special Victims Unit” for another year. Series creator and executive producer Dick Wolf said Tuesday he’s “thrilled” that the crime drama will return for its 11th season. “Special Victims Unit” is NBC most-watched scripted series. Whether stars Mariska Hargitay and Christopher Meloni will be back as well remained a mystery Tuesday. A person familiar with the matter said they had yet to conclude contract talks with NBC Universal Television Studio. The person asked not to be identified because they were not authorized to comment on the discussions. The actors went through reportedly bitter negotiations two years ago, each emerging with deals worth roughly \$6.5 million per season.

### Restraining order approved in ‘DWTS’ case

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A court commissioner has issued a three-year restraining order against a Florida man who police say tried to break onto the “Dancing With the Stars” set to meet Shawn Johnson. Robert O’Ryan has been in custody since last month, when police say the 34-year-old jumped a fence at the Los Angeles studio lot of the popular dancing competition. Court records state a search of O’Ryan’s car turned up loaded guns, duct tape and love

letters to Johnson, a 17-year-old Olympic gold medalist. The order approved Tuesday morning is meant to prevent O’Ryan from contacting Johnson or her family for three years. O’Ryan remains jailed on \$220,000 bail and was not represented in court. Johnson’s parents appeared but were not required to testify.

### Actress knows whodunit to Edie on ‘Housewives’

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Nicollette Sheridan says her “Desperate Housewives” character faced something more dangerous than a deranged husband: The actress claims the show’s creator had it in for Edie Britt. Sheridan told TV Guide magazine that Edie must represent somebody that “Desperate Housewives” creator Marc Cherry didn’t like and that he had trouble “distinguishing between fact and fiction.” When last seen, Edie had crashed her car while trying to flee her husband. The ABC drama picks up the story in Sunday’s episode, with Edie mourned by her Wisteria Lane neighbors. Cherry told TV Guide that the show has been under pressure to cut costs, with the magazine estimating that Sheridan’s departure will save up to \$200,000 per episode. Cherry also says in TV Guide’s April 20 issue that Edie’s story and sexual escapades had run their course.

## Sister pays the price for her brother-in-law’s deception

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** Five years ago, my brother-in-law sent my sister “Rita” and me on an all-expense-paid weekend trip to Canada. He asked me to tell Rita that I had “won” it for outstanding performance at my job and wanted her to accompany me.

To make a long story short, it turned out he did it in order to cheat on my sister. Because we had problems with the arrangements he had made, Rita and I had to return a day early. When she opened her front door and walked in, she caught her husband red-handed.

Ever since that unfortunate incident, Rita has cut off our entire family. She acts as though WE cheated on her, and remains married to this despicable man even though he lives with the other woman.

I don’t understand why my sister has pushed away all of the people who love her while maintaining a relationship with a man who cheats on her. I don’t know what to do. Any advice?

MISSING MY SISTER

**DEAR MISSING:** Your sister may feel that she deserves the treatment she’s getting from her husband, or is still hoping that her wandering spouse will return. Because you were part of the deception, she has displaced the anger she should be aiming at her husband and has directed it at you because it is “safer.”

Until she finds the strength and courage to accept that her marriage is over, her behavior will probably continue. I’m advising you to go on with your life until she is ready to change hers.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Most of my extended family are pleasant and enjoy each other’s company when we meet at family gatherings several times a year. But three of them (all from the same side of the family) are just plain rude. Every event becomes an uncomfortable exercise in bracing oneself for the verbal attacks that come from these critical, judgmental people.

We have tried talking about it, but hear the same refrains—“I’m not changing,” “Accept me as I am,” and, “You have no choice but to put up with me because we are family!”

I am a younger member of this family who occasionally spends holidays with friends or traveling. When I do, I am severely chastised by these three relatives, who say I have “no right” to skip family gatherings. If they were nicer people, I would want to spend more time with them.

I want to do the right thing, but what do people who have the same ancestry “owe” each other when there is no connection of friendship or goodwill?

RELATED IN NAME ONLY IN SAN JOSE, CALIF.

**DEAR RELATED:** I know of no rule of etiquette that states you are compelled to attend every family event. Good manners dictate that you treat those around you courteously. But that does not mean that you must engage in anything more than casual, superficial chit-chat with those who are critical, judgmental and rude.

Because these get-togethers involve extended family, spend the majority of your time with the relatives who make you feel welcome, supported and loved.

P.S. One thing you do NOT owe these folks is an explanation regarding your absence when you choose to avoid them.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

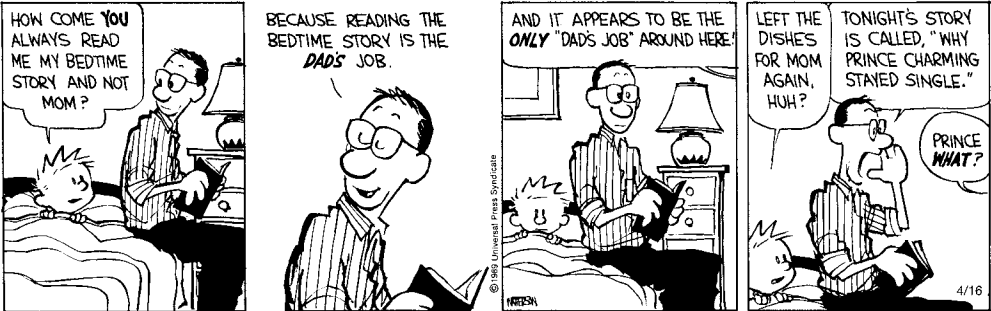
*For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



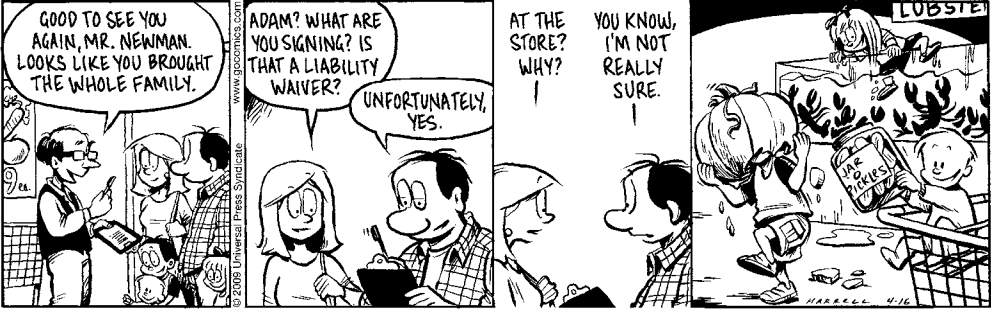
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



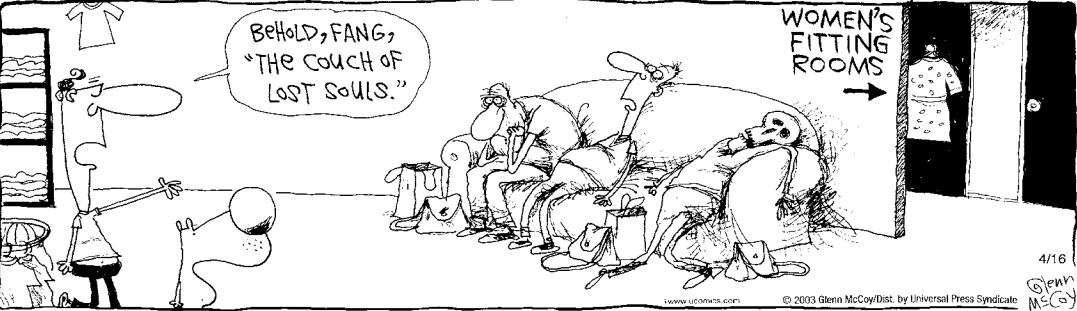
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



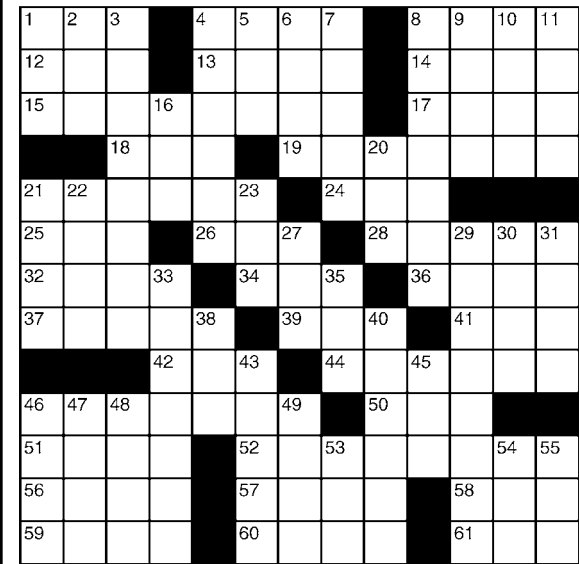
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Auction
  - 4 Presentation
  - 8 A-number-1
  - 12 Blackjack component
  - 13 Emanation
  - 14 Make a lasting impression?
  - 15 JFK or LBJ, e.g.
  - 17 Waikiki wingding
  - 18 Rowing need
  - 19 Granting permission
  - 21 Cold season
  - 24 Uncivilized
  - 25 "— was saying, ..."
  - 26 Fix the sound-track
  - 28 Doppler device
  - 32 Heckle
  - 34 Space
  - 36 Bigfoot's cousin
- DOWN**
- 37 Nerdy guy
  - 39 Joke
  - 41 Oft-tattooed word
  - 42 Branch
  - 44 Four-poster feature
  - 46 Montgolfier transport
  - 50 Torched
  - 51 Margarine
  - 52 Wreck
  - 56 "— It Romantic?"
  - 57 History chapters
  - 58 Not paleo-
  - 59 Oodles
  - 60 Lomond is one
  - 61 Wander about
  - 21 Hospital section
  - 22 "— Mommy
  - 1 Awful
  - 2 "Rocks"
  - 3 Portray as
  - 4 Holy
  - 5 "Ben- —"
  - 6 Exam format
  - 7 "Just add —"
  - 8 D.C.
  - 9 Needle case
  - 10 Read briefly
  - 11 Hoodlum
  - 16 Feedbag bit
  - 20 Paving gunk
  - 23 Obvious hairpiece
  - 27 Satchel
  - 29 Reducing in rank
  - 30 On
  - 31 Frost-covered
  - 33 Ardent enthusiasts
  - 35 — -10 Conference
  - 38 Street address?
  - 40 Overshoe
  - 43 Runway VIP
  - 45 Zilch
  - 46 Seethe
  - 47 As well
  - 48 Fast time?
  - 49 Infamous lyre player
  - 53 Singer Davis
  - 54 The Red or the Black
  - 55 Coal carrier

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-16



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Martin Lawrence, 44; Ellen Barkin, 55; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 62; Bobby Vinton, 74

**Happy Birthday:** You've got a lot to contend with this year but, you are a pioneer and it isn't likely anyone is going to leave you in their dust. The competition will be stiff but if you stay focused, you haven't a thing to worry about. Your readiness and willingness to go the extra mile will win the day. Your numbers are 3, 5, 14, 26, 30, 34, 42

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Regroup and recognize the importance of not getting sidetracked. You have more important things to do than waste time on something you cannot change. Take care of the people who have been good to you in the past. \*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Rely on your own abilities and knowledge to avoid someone trying to lead you off-track. Relax and enjoy the company of friends who share your beliefs and can contribute to what you are trying to accomplish. A short trip will pay off. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Pay back any money you owe. A situation regarding contractual or legal matters will escalate fast. Ward off any chance of embarrassment or excess costs by coming up with viable solutions. Your promptness will impress others. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** A fabulous arrangement between you and a perfect partner can be made. Special consideration given at a time like this will show your strength of character and ability to meet any op-

position halfway. Resolutions made now will lead to a brighter future. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You may be tempted to do something drastic for the wrong reason. It isn't that you shouldn't make changes but rather how and why you go about it. Check out ways to better your skills or move to a location more conducive to the industry you work in. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Take what you know and have recently learned and get moving in a new direction. Don't let someone else's unpredictable nature override what you know you have to accomplish. A new friendship can be established. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Rise above gossip and rumors. Make your own decision on what to believe and who to support. Problems at home or with children or a loved one will require legal documentation to protect your interests. \*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Be your own spokesperson and refuse to give in to pressure. Put your money in a safe place and don't hire anyone unlikely to give you your money's worth. Figure out what you can do yourself. \*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** If you aren't fair, you won't win. A lover or companion will be upset with your actions if you bend the truth or intentionally hurt someone. Coming across as a class act will impress your greatest critic. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** An idea you

EUGENIA LAST  
THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

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have will bring about a change in your financial standing. Property investments will result in greater security and eventual prosperity. A relationship you cherish will be amplified if you are attentive. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Keep things to yourself and you will avoid interference. Someone you trust will give you the heads-up to proceed with a plan to add to your skills. A past acquaintance or an experience you had long ago will influence a decision you have to make now. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Take a chance and listen to the advice being given by someone in a powerful position. You stand to prosper by following a plan of attack that has worked in the past. A partnership will prove to be beneficial. \*\*\*\*

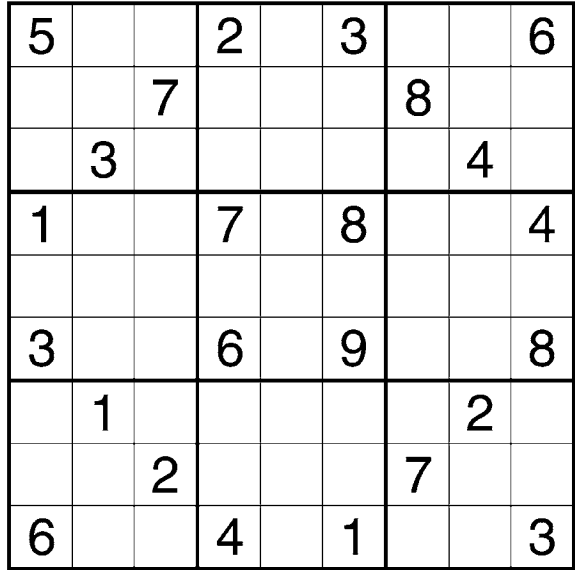
**Birthday Baby:** You have integrity, honor and are ethical. You are calculating and practical but warm and loving. You come to your decisions logically and with thoughtfulness.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



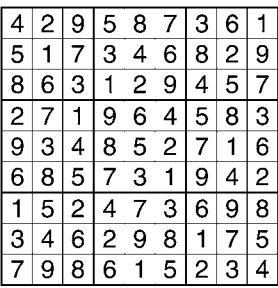
Difficulty Level ★★

4/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

4/15

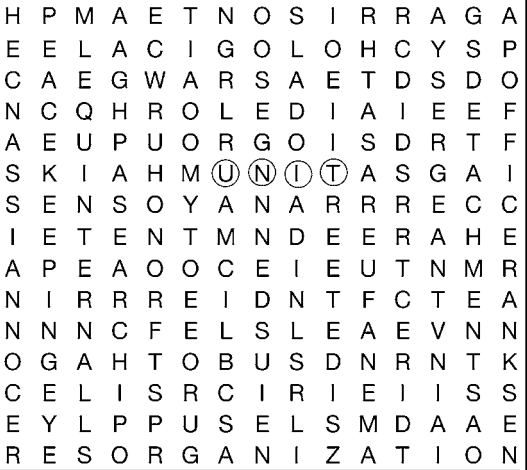
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE GREEN BERETS

Solution: 12 letters



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4/16

Action, Assistance, Cadre, Culture, Defense, Detachments, Direct, Elite, Enemy, Free, Garrison, Green, Ground, Group, Honor, Humanitarian, Internal, Lead, Liberate, Line, Missions, Officer, Organization, Peacekeeping, Psychological, Raids, Ranks, Reconnaissance, Role, Search, Sergeant, Serve, Soldiers, Supply, Task, Team, Unit, Wars  
**Yesterday's Answer: Folkloric**  
VOL. 28 is here! To order, send \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to: Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64105 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at [upuzzles.com](http://upuzzles.com). (contains 43 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger, 20 x 20 size)



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**FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL**

Apartment for Rent: 1br \$130.00, 2br \$210.00, 3 br \$250.00. Contact no. 288-0728. Mr Yoon Won Suck

**FOR SALE**

Bud's Bar for Sale: You must see to appreciate the bargain. Bud's Bar is a fully loaded bar, a turn key operation, ready to go. All inclusive, operation include. Call Leslie 233-1113 after 5:00pm will negotiate

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We are looking for all kinds of properties, vacant property, commercial building, house, or apartment for long term lease or for sale. Interested owners, you may visit Yuta Office beside Bank of Guam in San Antonio.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section



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• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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**235-NEWS**



# Pierce lifts Celtics past 76ers



**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—The 76ers might be in big trouble in a playoff series with Boston once Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett are back.

Paul Pierce and his backup band were enough to finish off a Sixers team that still has something to play for.

Pierce hit the winning jumper, scored 31 points and hindered Philadelphia's shot at the Eastern Conference's sixth seed in Boston's 100-98 win over the Sixers on Tuesday night.

"We should have won the game," Sixers guard Andre Iguodala said. "They used a second unit for the majority of the game."

Tony Allen and Leon Powe were pressed into service and combined for 28 points, and the Celtics' bench also outscored Philadelphia's reserves. Boston's subs were needed because Garnett missed the meaningless game for Boston to rest his strained knee and Allen served a one-game suspension.

Pierce made seven 3-pointers to overcome the absence of the two All-Stars, which had to make the Sixers wonder how they could win a first-round series against a loaded and focused Celtics team.

"We needed some scoring and I was trying to score the ball more tonight," Pierce said.

The Celtics already had the second seed in the East locked up and could face the Sixers in the first round of the playoffs. The Sixers, though, could move up a spot to sixth and play Orlando if they win Wednesday night in Cleveland and the Raptors beat Chicago.

The Cavaliers, however, are 39-1 at home and are attempting to match the best home record in NBA history. The Sixers are only 16-24 on the road and have lost six straight games.

Iguodala led the Sixers with 25 points and Thaddeus Young had 18.

"We've got to be ready to play no matter who we play in the playoffs," Iguodala said. "If we don't play at a high level, we'll be going home."

Young returned after missing seven games with an ankle injury and showed he was back in full form when he used

Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce (34) shoots over Philadelphia 76ers forwards Andre Iguodala and Reggie Evans (30) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, April 14, 2009, in Philadelphia.



a spin move in the paint for a quick basket to open the game. The rest of the Sixers still have some work to do.

Even with Allen and Garnett out, and Pierce on the bench most of the fourth period, the Celtics rallied from an 11-point hole to take the lead late in the quarter. The lead flip-flopped over several possessions until Pierce buried a step-back 17-footer to make it 99-98 with 2 minutes left.

Young missed one of two free throws, then misfired a 3-pointer that could have put the Sixers up and bolstered their shot for the sixth seed.

With one last attempt for the win, Iguodala tried to drive past Pierce and tossed up a floater in traffic that went nowhere.

"Paul defended that pretty good, then Andre had to come up to get it, so they took us out of where we wanted to do that," Sixers coach Tony DiLeo said.

Tony Allen scored 18 points in his first start of the year for the Celtics. Glen Davis had 15 points.

## Hawks 81, Heat 79

At Atlanta, Mario West blew a dunk. Speedy Claxton threw up an airball on a free throw. And Miami missed five shots on a decisive possession.

This playoff preview looked more like a preseason game.

Flip Murray scored 17 points to lead the Atlanta Hawks reserves past the Miami Heat scrubs 81-79 Tuesday night in a game that shed little light on their upcoming playoff series. With both teams locked into their seedings—they'll play Game 1 in Atlanta this weekend—there was little incentive for either to give significant minutes to top players.

They didn't.

Miami star Dwyane Wade, coming off a career-best 55 points against the

New York Knicks, wasn't in uniform. Neither were Jermaine O'Neal or Udonis Haslem, the latter recovering from a deep cut on his right thumb. Michael Beasley led the Heat with 23 points and 13 rebounds in only 24 minutes.

## Lakers 125, Jazz 112

At Los Angeles, Andrew Bynum scored 22 points in his best effort since returning from injury and the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Utah Jazz 125-112 Tuesday night to close the regular season with their sixth consecutive home victory.

The Lakers tied the 1986-87 team with their 65th victory, making them the third-winningest team in franchise history, trailing only the 1971-72 team (69) and 1999-00 team (67).

Pau Gasol added 20 points and nine rebounds, Kobe Bryant and Lamar Odom had 16 points each, and Sasha Vujacic 15 points for the Lakers.

# De La Hoya retires at age 36



**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Oscar De La Hoya called it quits in the ring Tuesday, ending a career in which he

won 10 world titles in six divisions and became boxing's most popular fighter. He announced his decision at an outdoor plaza across the street from Staples Center, where a statue of the 36-year-old Golden Boy stands.

"I've come to the conclusion that it's over," the East Los Angeles native said before hundreds of fans, including comedian George Lopez and Oscar-nominated actor and former fighter Mickey Rourke. "It's over inside the ring for me."

De La Hoya retires four months after he was thoroughly beaten by Manny Pacquiao, his fourth loss in his last seven fights. He has not defeated a formidable opponent since Fernando Vargas in 2002. Age and diminished skills led to losses in recent years to Felix Trinidad, Shane Mosley, Bernard Hopkins and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

He won his last title in May 2006, beating Ricardo Mayorga in six rounds for the WBC 154-pound belt. He finished with a record of 39-6 and 30 knockouts.

"This is the love of my life, boxing is my passion, boxing is what I was born to do," De La Hoya said. "When I can't do it anymore, when I can't compete at the highest level, it's not fair. It's not fair to me, it's not fair to the fans, it's not fair to nobody."

De La Hoya transcended his sport, generating crossover appeal among Latinos and whites. He was especially popular among women, who filled his news conferences and fights while screaming their approval of the boxer blessed with a magnetic smile and movie-star looks.

De La Hoya said he based his decision on not wanting to let down his fans or himself. But he admitted he struggled to end things.

"Now I understand why athletes have such a tough time retiring from something that you feel so passionate about, from your sport that you're always thinking you can try one more time," he said.

"I can still train hard and I can still compete, but when you're an athlete that has competed on the highest level for a lot of years, it's not fair. It's not fair to step inside the ring and not give my best."

Although the second half of his career wasn't as successful, De La Hoya was a champ at the ticket window. His bouts were guaranteed pay-per-view successes, and he was a cash cow for HBO, which broadcast 32 of his fights - most of any boxer - and generated millions in profits for the cable network.

De La Hoya's last title bout was in May 2007, when he lost to Mayweather for the WBC 154-pound title in Las Vegas, the site of most of his bouts.

De La Hoya kept a stern expression during his announcement, his voice breaking only when he thanked his father, Joel, who sat on the stage with the boxer's wife, Millie Corretjer, a Puerto Rican singer.

"I remember the times when he would take me to the gym and never gave up on me," De La Hoya said. "We've lived some tough moments inside the ring, we've been through everything, but my father was always there for me. Thank you for pushing me as hard as you can."

# Isiah Thomas accepts collegiate coaching job

**MIAMI (AP)**—While growing up in Serbia, Florida International forward Nikola Gacesa often heard his father talk about the way Isiah Thomas played basketball.

"He is a big fan," Gacesa said.

Gacesa will soon have his own stories to tell: Thomas is back in coaching, accepting an offer from FIU to revive his career and their program.

Ending a whirlwind courtship, Thomas and FIU agreed on a five-year contract Tuesday - an out-of-nowhere deal that gives the former Knicks coach and president a chance to restore the reputation he built as a Hall of Fame player and tarnished through a series of embarrassments in New York.

"I'm committed to growing something here, and strongly believe that over time, we'll put a team on the floor that everyone at FIU can be proud of," Thomas said.

Thomas helped the Detroit Pistons win two NBA championships as one of the all-time great point guards, then coached the Indiana Pacers before tak-

ing over in New York, where an array of problems marred his tenure.

Nonetheless, FIU moved quickly to lock up its top choice for the job.

"I know he is a good person," FIU athletic director Pete Garcia said. "Isiah is going to give our fans and alumni a lot of reasons to be excited."

In New York, Thomas endured legal and personal troubles off the court, and more losses than wins on it. His Knicks were 23-59 last season, prompting a firing many fans had long awaited. The Knicks never won a playoff game in his tenure as president or coach.

Knicks president Donnie Walsh, who fired Thomas, wished him luck at FIU.

"I think it's a great thing for him and it's kind of what I wanted for him from the day I let him go," Walsh said.

It was more than losses that doomed Thomas in New York.

In 2007, a jury ordered Knicks owner Madison Square Garden to pay \$11.6 million to a former team executive who alleged she was sexually harassed by Thomas, who continually maintained

his innocence and was never found personally liable.

This past October, there was more drama.

Officers responded to Thomas' New York-area home after a 911 call reported someone had overdosed on sleeping pills. According to police reports, officers found a man passed out and gave him oxygen until an ambulance arrived.

Authorities never publicly identified Thomas as the victim, but a person familiar with the case confirmed to the AP that it was Thomas.

Still, Thomas' hiring at FIU quickly became a galvanizing story in South Florida.

"This is bigger than basketball and bigger than athletics," said FIU president Modesto A. Maidique. "Having a nationally recognized coach like Isiah at FIU will have a positive impact on our university as a whole, helping us achieve additional national exposure."

With Thomas - whose career record in the NBA was 187-223 (in-

cluding three playoff seasons with the Pacers) - on board, national exposure is certain.

"It's a testament to the direction of FIU athletics," Golden Panthers football coach Mario Cristobal said. "It's a great thing. There's tremendous amounts of excitement here."

Thomas will face some immediate challenges: FIU went 13-20 this past season, its third 20-loss campaign in four years, and has not posted a winning record since 1999-2000. He'll need to move quickly on filling some roster slots, since the spring signing period for Division I players starts Wednesday.

"If you really think about it, some of these kids that are coming out of AAU that are going to go to college for one year, that's a pretty good sell," Walsh said. "Come down to Miami, spend a year with me. I think he's positioned to do well with recruiting there."

Miami Heat center Jermaine O'Neal, who played for Thomas at Indiana, said the coach deserved a new opportunity.



# Burnett flirts with no-hitter, Yankees win



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

(AP)—A.J. Burnett is already paying dividends on his big contract with the New York Yankees.

The free-agent catch took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning in his second start since signing an \$82.5 million, five-year deal, and Nick Swisher homered for the third time in four games to help Burnett beat the Tampa Bay Rays 7-2 on Tuesday night.

Mark Teixeira drove in the go-ahead run with an eighth-inning sacrifice fly off J.P. Howell (0-1) after missing New York's previous three games with tendinitis in left wrist.

Derek Jeter added a three-run homer in the ninth.

Burnett (2-0) allowed one baserunner until the seventh, when Tampa Bay's Carl Crawford fouled off three 0-2 pitches before lining a single to left and later scoring on Carlos Pena's RBI single.

The Rays added a second run in the inning on Pat Burrell's sacrifice fly to make it 2-all heading into the eighth.

Burnett allowed two runs and three hits, walked one and struck out nine in eight innings—taming a torrid offense that had 17 hits in each of its previous two games, including a 15-5 rout of the Yankees on Monday night.

## Mariners 3, Angels 2

At Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. was a winner in his return to Seattle.

Franklin Gutierrez hit a lead-off double in the 10th inning and scoring the winning run on a throwing error by Angels pitcher Scot Shields.

Griffey went 1-for-3 with a walk in his first home game for the Mariners since Sept. 26, 1999. The 39-year-old slugger has the same corner locker inside "The House that Junior Built" that he had for half a season before Seattle granted his request and traded him to his hometown Cincinnati Reds nine years ago.

## Twins 3, Blue Jays 2

At Minneapolis, Joe Crede's double off the center-field



New York Yankees pitcher A.J. Burnett delivers to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 14, 2009 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

fence in the 11th inning scored Justin Morneau from first base, giving Minnesota a victory over Toronto.

Glen Perkins held the highest-scoring team in the majors to two runs in eight innings for the Twins, who snapped a 10-game losing streak to the Blue Jays.

Jesse Carlson (0-1) took the loss for Toronto, spoiling the second consecutive impressive outing from rookie Ricky Romero. He gave up two runs and eight hits with no walks in eight innings.

## Royals 9, Indians 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, John Buck broke open a tight game with a grand slam for his second homer of the night and had a career-high five RBIs for the Twins.

Buck made history on Sunday,

hitting the first homer at renovated Kauffman Stadium against the Yankees. Back in the lineup after a day off, he hit a leadoff home run off Carl Pavano (0-2) in the fifth inning, then launched his second career grand slam off Vinnie Chulk in the eighth to put the Royals up 9-3.

## Orioles 7, Rangers 5

At Arlington, Texas, Adam Jones hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the 10th inning and Baltimore held on to hand the Rangers their fifth straight loss.

With the score tied at 3, Brian Roberts singled with one out in the 10th off Eddie Guardado (0-1). Jones, who had three RBIs, followed with his first homer of the season into the Baltimore bullpen in left-center.

Luke Scott added a two-run double later in the four-

run 10th as the Orioles batted around to make it 7-3.

## Marlins 5, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Dan Uggla drove in three runs, Chris Volstad and two relievers combined on a four-hitter and the Florida Marlins beat the Atlanta Braves 5-1 on Tuesday night.

The Marlins are a major league-best 6-1—all against NL East opponents—for their best start since opening 8-1 in 1997, when they won the World Series.

Volstad (2-0) gave up three hits and one run in seven innings. He struck out four and walked two while lowering his ERA to 1.50. He has allowed only five hits in 12 innings.

## Reds 6, Brewers 1

At Milwaukee, Bronson Arroyo

## Sore shoulder could end Glavine's career

ATLANTA (AP)—Tom Glavine may retire if his sore left shoulder doesn't improve in two weeks.

Glavine was told Tuesday he must rest for at least two weeks after inflammation was found in his left rotator cuff. The 43-year-old had an MRI and was examined by Dr. James Andrews, who advised treatment and rest.

Glavine said he's tired of rehabbing after elbow and shoulder surgery last August. He's willing to give the shoulder two weeks, but not much longer.

"I'm willing to put in a little more time but I'm not willing to put in another six weeks or eight weeks because by then, you know what, I'm going to have to start all over again and I'm not interested in doing that," he said.

Glavine joined the Braves at Turner Field on Tuesday night following the examination in Birmingham, Ala.

He ended Sunday's minor league start with Double-A Mississippi after two innings due to soreness in the shoulder after swinging a bat.

Glavine felt similar discomfort when hitting in spring training, but he said that pain didn't last as it did this time.

The visit with Andrews left Glavine with a two-week timetable that may determine if he continues his career.

"From my own standpoint, it works better for me to kind of have a timetable to say, OK, let's give it this amount of time, and if we see some progress, then good. We'll know we're going in the right

direction," Glavine said. "If we don't, then I think maybe at that point in time maybe we need to sit down and honestly think about how much more I want to go through this and whether or not anything is going to change."

Because the MRI did not reveal a tear, the initial reaction from the Braves was positive.

General manager Frank Wren said the Braves "were happy that it wasn't more serious."

"I think it's good it happened swinging the bat instead of throwing the ball," manager Bobby Cox said. "It's kind of a disappointment for me, but I think the good news is he's coming back."

Glavine, who agreed to a \$1 million, one-year contract in February, sounded less sure that he'll pitch again. He doesn't expect to have another MRI in two weeks.

"I think all of it is going to be based on how I progress pain-wise," he said. "If I'm seeing a definitive change in the amount of pain that I have and the amount of strength I'm being able to gain, then I think I continue on. If two weeks from now my pain has not changed and my strength isn't any better, then I think I'm more clearly in a position where I need to honestly sit down and figure out how much more I want to go through with this."

Glavine was 2-4 with a 5.54 ERA in 13 starts last season. He had a partially torn left elbow tendon repaired by Andrews on Aug. 21. At that time, Andrews also cleaned up Glavine's left shoulder.

allowed four hits in six-plus innings, leading Cincinnati over Milwaukee.

Arroyo (2-0) was bothered by a flare-up of carpal tunnel syndrome during spring training and didn't look particularly sharp in winning his first

outing of the season. But this time he gave up his only run on a homer by J.J. Hardy.

Jerry Hairston Jr. hit a two-run shot for the Reds, who took the first two games of the series and will go for a sweep Wednesday.

# NFL releases full regular-season schedule



NEW YORK

(AP)—The Dallas Cowboys will open their new \$1.1 billion stadium in a nationally televised Sunday night game against the New York Giants on Sept. 20.

The NFL released its complete 2009 regular-season schedule Tuesday. The always-popular Cowboys lead all teams with six scheduled nationally televised games, even without Terrell Owens.

Reigning Super Bowl cham-

pion Pittsburgh meets division rival Baltimore twice in five weeks late in the season after they faced off in the AFC title game. They play Nov. 29 and Dec. 27.

The NFC champion Arizona Cardinals, who were edged by the Steelers in the Super Bowl, are scheduled for three national TV prime-time games: Sept. 27 at home against Indianapolis; Oct. 25 at the Giants; and Dec. 14 at San Francisco.

"I think it is a little bit like the Pro Bowl," coach Ken

Whisenhunt said. "We had five guys in this year because it was a sign of respect for what we are doing. And hopefully that is an indication that people are looking at us as a team maybe of interest, which hasn't necessarily been the case - on a national level is what I am saying - so that is exciting."

On Oct. 11, the Patriots take on Denver and former offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, now the Broncos' coach. New England renews its rivalry with the Colts on Nov. 15.

The NFL had already announced the opening weekend's prime-time games. The Steelers begin their title defense Thursday, Sept. 10 against the Titans, who had the league's best record in 2008 and beat the Steelers 31-14 in the 15th game of the season.

The first Monday night game features the Patriots - in what they hope is Tom Brady's return - against the Bills, in Owens' debut. Also that night, the Chargers are at Oakland as the league pays tribute to the Amer-

ican Football League, which would have been 50 years old in 2010. All four of those teams are original AFL franchises.

New England also plays Tampa Bay in London on Oct. 25, with the Buccaneers as the host team.

The Bears, with new quarterback Jay Cutler, are among the teams with five nationally televised games.

It was McDaniels' pursuit of then-Patriots quarterback Matt Cassel that led to Cutler's fallout with the Broncos. McDaniels will

face Cassel when Denver plays the Chiefs on Dec. 6 and Jan. 3.

The computer used by the NFL generated more than 1.3 million schedules for consideration, and the league reviewed more than 3,500 complete schedules. That number was cut to 60 before the final one was determined.

Only two clubs have three-game road trips this season, down from as many as eight in the past. The Giants and Seahawks have three straight road contests.

All teams playing a Thursday game that does not follow a bye are at home the weekend before the Thursday match.



# Cruz reaps major awards in Tinian Invitational

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER



CNMI Nationals mainstay Jericho Cruz reaped the major awards in the just-con-

cluded 2009 Budweiser Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Invitational Basketball League, taking home the best player of the championship game and the Most Valuable Player plums.

Cruz scored 30 points in Hyatt Regency Saipan's lopsided 100-75 victory over Aqua Resort Club in their championship duel Monday night at the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium.

He was the lone player from Hyatt to make it to the Mythi-



Jericho Cruz, second left, of Hyatt Regency Saipan receives his MVP trophy and gift items from Kiri Jackson, Noel Sabordo, and Tom Liu of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

## UFO caging draws 10 teams, holds meeting tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Organizers of the 2009 UFO Inter-Organization Basketball League is

calling on representatives of participating teams to attend a meeting tonight at the Filipino Workers Resource Center at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

So far, 10 teams have already signified their intension to join the UFO caging. The list include defending champion Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense, Vis-Minda, Bayani Association, MDX, Samahang Mangga-

gawang Filipino, NAMFREL, Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, MIFICPA, and UP Alumni Association.

Representatives of interested teams, who have no affiliate Filipino organization, are also invited to attend the 6:30 p.m. meeting.

Copies of ground rules will be distributed at the meeting, while organizers will discuss with the participants the entrance fee and uniform assignments.

UFO caging is returning this season after three years of absence and United Filipino Organization is planning to kick off the league later this month.

UFO last hosted the inter-organization caging in 2005 with

SIP beating Cabalen in a best-of-three title series, 2-1. SIP prevailed in Game 1, 88-79, but failed to sweep the series when Cabalen won Game 2, 99-85. SIP ruled the series with a 95-86 victory in the deciding Game 3, claiming its fourth title in six years of joining the league.

SIP players also won the most individual awards in the league. Edsel Mendoza was named Finals MVP, while Elmer Esdreton made it to the Mythical Five, joining Mendoza, Andres "Jhun" Estolas of LIPS-Mobil, and Ronald Delos Reyes, and Dalewin Cortez of Cabalen.

SIP gunner Bryan Flores was best in three points, Jawn

Joyner and Bing Marasigan of Visminda were best in assist and free throw, respectively, Cortez was best in block shots, Chris Domingo of Cavite-Country House was best in steals, Marlon De Dios of MDX Amateur Radio-Armatech was best in rebounds, and Rowel Aranda of LIPS-Mobil was the top scorer for the season.

Twelve teams joined the 2005-2006 edition of the UFO caging.

For more information, contact UFO president Olive Yana at oliveyana@yahoo.com, Melvin Malvar at mjmalvar@yahoo.com, Paul Madriaga at madriaga@pticom.com or Leo Canedo at lcanedo69@gmail.com.

## GECKOS

From Page 28

points. The Geckos also drew contributions from Borja and Sung Hae Cho in the payoff mark to end their two-game losing skid.

In the girls division, the Lady Geckos prevailed over MBA to gain their second win of the season.

**SIS 62** - A. Lee 24, Wang 15, Graf 8, Cho 6, Knecht 6, Borja 4.

**MBA 43** - Jo 20, Lee 6, Manglona 4, Sablan 4, Park 2, Torres 2, Samson 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-2, 27-16, 43-27, 62-43.

## VINE

From Page 28

the Saipan World Resort beach yesterday noon, along with women's four-time champion Renata Bucher of Switzerland, Jim McConnel of Great Britain, Ulli Kratzer of Austria, and Sascha Wingenfeld of Germany.

Kratzer and Wingenfeld are competing on Saipan for the first time.

Vine said the scorching sun would be the biggest challenge for him and other off-island athletes.

"It was cold in Vancouver. So

it would be a question of how would I handle the heat here which is not normal in Canada," Vine said.

But he came here ready for the race. He won the 2008 US XTERRA Championship and was fourth in the world championships in Maui, Hawaii.

"I had a good start in Maui, but melt down before the finish," Vine said.

Because of the cold weather in Canada, he spent some time in San Diego, California last month in preparation for XTERRA Saipan.

"I did some good training there. I hope not to melt down in the tougher and longer course

here," said Vine, who is staying in Russ Quinn's house for the rest of the Saipan Sports Fest.

Vine was booked only for XTERRA, but he may change his mind and compete in the Tagaman Triathlon, too.

Asked about his chances in XTERRA Saipan, he said it depends on how others will perform.

"Some of them have been here much longer and it seems they have already adjusted to the weather," he said.

For sure, said Vine, it will be a competitive race.

"It's a matter of how you face yourself with the heat. I just hope not to melt down," he said.

## TWO

From Page 28

only the top two finishers in the men's and women's C divisions will move to the next round. Final games in the preliminary round will be played this Friday and Saturday, while title matches are set for Sunday.

Aguda and Gargallo prevailed twice over three pairs and will be looking for a sweep this weekend when they play their last game in the elimination round against the tandem of Lito Mendoza and Joseph Santos.

Santos and Mendoza are cur-

rently in second place in the men's A with their 3-3 record, followed by the duos of Hapi Gabriel/Robert Reyes (3-4), Edwin Montoya/Gary Bandoja (2-5), and Eric Pena/Jerry Hibi (1-4).

In the men's B division, Diola and Navarro are a win away from a sweep with the duo set to face Emil De Belen and Rommel Villavisa in the last game.

There is a tie for second place in the men's B division with the pairs of Daniel Macario/Jorge Olanda and Jojo Savellano/Noli Santos having identical 6-2 slates. In third place are Ariel Mariano and June Pineda (5-3), followed by Edwin Maratas/Alfred Acosta

(4-2), De Belen/Villavisa (2-5), Roger Vales/Efren Caddac (2-6), Rommel Catalma/Obet Aguilar 91-6), and Aries Cordero/Keno Pablo (1-8).

Two teams are in a deadlock for the lead in the women's B division with Cheng Saturno/Marlyn Montano and Cristy Villafior/Ingrid Sanchez holding similar 6-1 slates.

Anna Rose Omori and Malou Malasarte are in solo second with a 4-2 record, followed by Marlene Peraja/Emily Vargas (3-4), Shirley Kim/Angelie Ito (3-4), Lani Bartolome/Lucelle Lampera (2-5), Anna Alvarez/Juneh Padua (1-4), and Lea Estinopo/Rose Lazaro (1-5).

In the men's C division, Puy Macario and Cris Hilario are on top with their 3-1 record, Rodwealth Espana and James Digno are in second with a 3-2 slate, while Frank Villagomez and Ric Brien are in third with a 2-1 mark. Ezekiel Macario and Roding Domingo are still winless in five games.

The pair of Irene Santiago and Annette Quiambao is leading the women's C division with its 5-1 record. Hazel Dela Santa and Dorie Pineda hold a 5-2 record for second, while Jenine Savellano and Ruby Gozon are in third with their 3-3 slate. The duos of Elna Curate/Jasmin Cordova and Malou Mendoza/

cal Five. Others on the list were Darwin Barbo and Ryan Sanciango of third placer Pacific Islands Club, Aqua's Jhun Estolas, and Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan/Saipan Grand Hotel's Elmer Esdreton.

Aqua's Marvin Deocares was named Best Coach.

James Abuy was the three-point shot king, although he managed to make only two of his five tries from downtown in PIC's 100-96 triumph over fourth placer Fiesta/Grand.

Fiesta/Grand's Raymund Cadagat went 7-of-18 from beyond the arc, but took the best in steals award. He also owned the highest score of the season with 49 points.

The other individual awardees were Ringo Reyes of host TDHC (best in rebounds), Kelvin Fital of Aqua (best in defense), Bernard Aquino of Hyatt (best in assists), and Sanciango (scoring champion).

Sanciango, who scored 48 points in PIC's win over Fiesta/Grand, also went home with the Sportsmanship Award for individual category, while TDHC won the same award in the team division.

After playing for Hyatt, Cruz is hoping to suit up for a collegiate team in the Philippines.

He said he is looking for a scholarship grant from the University of the Philippines and hopefully he can play for the UP Fighting Maroons in the Universities Athletic Association of the Philippines.

The UAAP is the premiere collegiate sports organization in the Philippines and has the basketball competition as centerpiece of its annual sports events. The UAAP caging has long been a backyard for players aspiring to make it to the Philippine Basketball League and the Philippine Basketball Association, Asia's first professional league.

## HUSTLERS

From Page 28

Hustlers against him. Elton Santos relieved him in the bottom of the fourth inning and the former struck out five batters, but allowed 12 hits and four runs.

The Fielders suffered their

fifth defeat in six outings.

Today's game at 6pm will be between the Tanapag Falcons and Ol'Aces. Ol'Aces are currently on top of the team standings and are seeking their fifth win against a lone defeat.

The Falcons are tied with the Hustlers in second place with similar 3-2 records.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	61	20	.753	-
x-Philadelphia	40	41	.494	21
New Jersey	34	47	.420	26 1/2
Toronto	32	49	.395	28 1/2
New York	31	50	.383	29 1/2

#### Central Division

z-Cleveland	66	15	.815	-
x-Chicago	41	40	.506	25
x-Detroit	39	42	.481	27
Indiana	35	46	.432	31
Milwaukee	34	47	.420	32

#### Southeast Division

y-Orlando	58	23	.716	-
x-Atlanta	47	34	.580	11
x-Miami	42	39	.519	16
Charlotte	35	46	.432	23
Washington	19	62	.235	39

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	53	28	.654	-
x-Houston	53	28	.654	-
x-New Orleans	49	32	.605	4
x-Dallas	49	32	.605	4
Memphis	23	58	.284	30

#### Northwest Division

x-Denver	54	27	.667	-
x-Portland	53	28	.654	1
x-Utah	48	33	.590	6
Minnesota	24	57	.296	30
Oklahoma City	22	59	.272	32

#### Pacific Division

z-LA Lakers	64	17	.790	-
Phoenix	45	36	.556	20
Golden State	29	52	.358	35
LA Clippers	19	62	.235	45
Sacramento	16	65	.198	48

x-clinched playoff spot  
y-division champ  
z-clinched home court

#### Yesterday's Games

Boston 100, Philadelphia 98  
Atlanta 81, Miami 79  
LA Lakers 125, Utah 122

### MLB STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	6	2	.750	-
Toronto	6	3	.667	1/2
Tampa	4	4	.500	2
New York	4	4	.500	2.0
Boston	2	6	.250	4.0 1

#### Central Division

Kansas City	5	3	.625	-
Chicago	4	3	.571	1/2
Detroit	4	4	.500	1
Minnesota	4	5	.444	11/2
Cleveland	1	7	.125	4

#### West Division

Seattle	6	2	.750	-
Oakland	4	4	.500	2
Los Angeles	3	4	.429	2 1/2
Texas	3	5	.375	3

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

Florida	6	1	.857	-
Atlanta	5	2	.714	1
Philadelphia	4	3	.571	2
New York	3	4	.429	3
Washington	0	7	.000	6

#### Central Division

Chicago	5	2	.714	-
St. Louis	6	3	.667	-
Pittsburgh	4	3	.571	1
Cincinnati	4	3	.571	1
Milwaukee	2	6	.250	3 1/2
Houston	1	6	.143	4

#### West Division

San Diego	6	2	.750	-
Los Angeles	5	3	.625	1
Colorado	3	4	.429	2 1/2
Arizona	3	5	.375	3
San Francisco	2	5	.286	3 1/2

#### Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 7, Tampa Bay 2  
Seattle 3, Angels 2  
Minnesota 3, Toronto 2  
Kansas City, Mo. 8, Cleveland 2  
Baltimore 7, Texas 5  
Florida 5, Atlanta 1  
Cincinnati 6, Milwaukee 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Football coach scouts for U11, U13 players

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER



The ongoing 2009 NMI FA Spring Youth Football League will provide the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association a pool of players who will represent the CNMI in future youth tournaments.

This was according to CNMI National Team coach and NMIFA technical director Sugao Kambe, who was seen going from one field to another during the first two weekends of the spring league.

"I am scouting for U11 and U13 players, who will be trained for future youth tournaments," said Kambe, adding they have yet to get a schedule of tournaments for the CNMI.

The last time a CNMI youth team went off-island for a tournament was in July last year. The Commonwealth was among the 10 teams that participated in the 2008 U-14 EAFF Youth Festival



MP United FC (in light uniform) and Paire FC U13 players chase the ball during their game in the youth spring league Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Crusaders dominate RBC Easter caging

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER



Guam's Barrigada Crusaders ruled the RBC Easter Basketball Invitational Tournament, topping two of three divisions in the three-day caging held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Crusaders' 14-and-under team walloped Saipan-based Sixers in the finals Saturday, 76-59, for the visitors first title of the day. In the 17-and-under division finals, Crusaders had a tougher time, as they needed two overtimes to thwart the Ayuyus, 64-61.

Sammy Setik led Crusaders' title-clincher win in the 14-and-under division, firing 20 pints. Three other Crusaders players scored in double figures to lift the team to a lopsided victory. Luis Cabral chipped in 15, while Samuel Sotelo and Francis Java contributed 14 and 12 markers, respectively.

The quartet teamed up in Crusaders' first-half break-away. Cabral nailed eight, Java and Sotelo added six, and Setik drilled five to give Crusaders a 29-16 halftime lead.

After making only a fieldgoal in the first three minutes of the second half, Setik had a strong finish, tallying 13 more points to lift Crusaders to an easy win.

Roxanne Duenas led the Sixers' losing cause with her 20

points. Nevin Salem was the only other Sixers player to score in double figures with 17.

Three teams battled for the 14-and-under crown with host Rollers failing to advance to the title match after losing two games in the elimination round and bowing to the Sixers in the playoff match.

Four teams competed for

egated to the loser's bracket and had to beat the Sixers in the other semis game to earn a rematch with Crusaders.

The title game between the Ayuyus and Crusaders was a neck-and-neck battle and ended in a tie after 40 minutes of play, 54-all.

Both teams struggled in the

championship for Crusaders.

Iguel was without a fieldgoal in second overtime, making only three charities, while Ryan Lisua gave the Ayuyus their lone field-goal in the second extension.

Iguel led all scorers with 26 points, while Juan Maratita chipped in 14 for the Ayuyus, but was scoreless in two overtimes.

Santos paced Crusaders with 25 markers, while Sigua finished with 14. Asuncion scored nine, nailing five of them in the two overtime periods.

Rollers Basketball Club organized the Easter caging, which drew support from Bank of Saipan, Advance X-Terminator, Hertz Rent A Car, and Saipan Shipping.

### U14 Finals

**Crusaders 76** – Setik 20, Cabral 15, Sotelo 14, Java 12, Oshiro 7, A. Manglona 2, Javellana 1.

**Sixers 59** – Duenas 20, Salem 17, Escalada 6, Villanueva 5, Cenir 2, De Guzman 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 29-16, 76-59

### U17 Finals

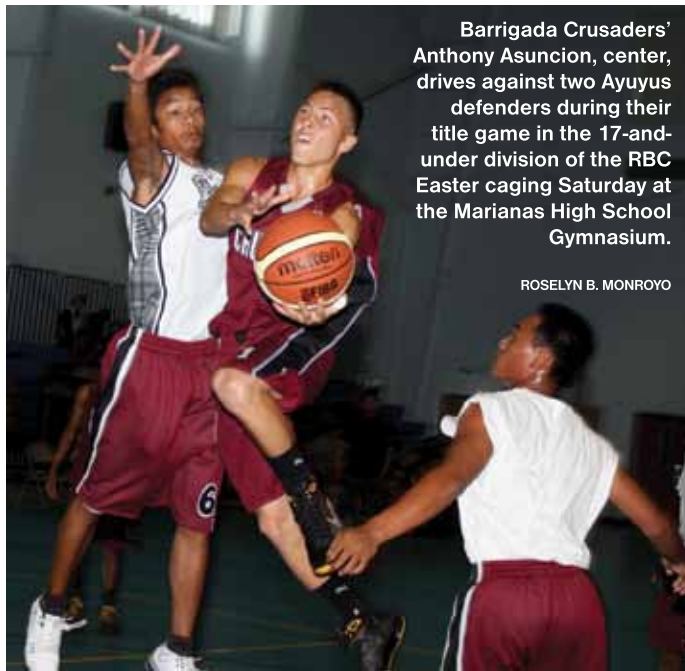
**Crusaders 64** – Santos 25, Sigua 14, Asuncion 9, McCarrel 4, Gaitan 3, Villagomez 3, Chargualaf 2.

**Ayuyus 61** – J. Iguel 26, Maratita 13, Lisua 9, Kaipat 7, Brel 5.

**Scoring by halves:** 25-25, 54-54, 56-56 (1st OT), 64-61 (2nd OT)

Details about the tournament, such as ground rules and playing venue and dates will be discussed in future meetings.

For more information, contact Lingcaso at 233-4519 to 20 or at 287-2926. (PR)



Barrigada Crusaders' Anthony Asuncion, center, drives against two Ayuyus defenders during their title game in the 17-and-under division of the RBC Easter caging Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Shirley's Invitational caging eyes May opening

Organizers of the 2009 Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball Tournament are planning to start the inaugural caging next month.

So far, nine teams have been invited to join the tournament.

They are Micronesia Brokers, Price Costco, G4S Security, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan, Saipan Grand Hotel, CTSI, Advance Xterminators, Pacific Trading, and JP Center. Organizers are considering inviting

one more squad to complete the 10-team caging.

Tournament coordinator Boy Lingcaso is encouraging coaches/representatives of each team to confirm their participation in the inaugural caging.

held in Guam. Others squads that competed in the youth tournament were from China, Chinese-Taipei, Guam, Hong Kong, Japan, DPR Korea Football Association, Korea Football Association, Macau, and Mongolia.

"You don't prepare for tournaments a few months or days before they kick off, that's why I am here, looking early for players who will be put in a training pool and will undergo a series of training sessions for a long period of time," Kambe said.

"It is very important to find the talents early, train them, and improve their skills so by the time they get into a tournament, they

are ready," he added.

The spring league holds competition in six age groups, namely the U4, U6, U8, U10, U13, and the U18. Around 500 kids from five football clubs—MP United FC, Matansa FC Paire FC, Independents FC, and Tan Holdings FC—are participating in the weekend league.

Eight teams are playing in the

boys' U13, while the girls division has four teams. MP United, Independents, and Paire have two boys teams each, while Matansa and Tan Holdings have one apiece. In the girls' division, Independents has two, and Paire and Matansa have one each.

In the U18, MP United and Paire have one team each in the girls and boys division.

The U4 division has two teams from MP United and one from Paire, while U6 has nine teams, three from MP United, two from Paire, two from Matansa, and one each from Independents and Tan Holdings FC.

The U8 and U10 division have 10 teams each. MP United and Paire have three teams apiece in U8, Matansa has two, and Independents and Tan Holdings FC have one each. In U10, Matansa has three teams, MP United, Paire, and Independents have two apiece, and Tan Holdings has one.

Meanwhile, the five clubs are still accepting players. For registration, contact Tina Goodwin of MP United at 322 2072 or at tina@saipan.com; Christina Smith of Matansa at 285 9095 or at christina.m.smith@gmail.com; Rebecca Newman of Paire at pairefc@gmail.com; Michael Thomas of Independents at kavabilo@gmail.com.; and Ariel Mariano of Tan Holdings FC at 233-2898 or ariel\_mariano@tanholdings.com.

## Tigilau records score to beat for RGA April Ace

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER



Ray Tigilau earned a chance to claim the RGA April Ace title after ruling a qualifying tournament Sunday at Kingfisher Golf Links.

Tigilau shot a net 71 to beat 11 other RGA members, including Jess Wabol, who also fired a net 71, but lost in the scorecard tie-break on the front nine.

The 22-handicapper Tigilau tallied a 48 and 45 on the front and back nines, respectively for a gross 93. He had a net 37 on the front to down Wabol by a stroke.

Wabol, who has a two handicap, drained a 39 on the front for a net 38. He finished strong with a 2-under par 34 for a gross 73.

Tigilau's net 71 will be the score to beat when RGA holds its second tournament for April later this month. Tigilau will keep the April Ace if no RGA member post better than net 71.

Other RGA members who joined the April qualifier were Tars Olopai (72), Bae Young Man (73), Joe Wabol (74),

Tony Rogolifoi (74), Dwayne Stephens (76), Asterio Tawanpiy (76), Jordon Kosam (78), Manny Mangarero (78), Ben Bae (86), and Tom Tebuteb (89).

The 8-handicapper Olopai was consistent at Kingfisher with his 42s on both nines for a gross 84, while Rogolifoi also shot in the 40s on both nines with his 43 on the front and 44 on the back for a gross 87.

Tebuteb and Ben Bae struggled, as they scored in the 100s with the former recording a gross 111 (59 and 52) and the latter firing 110 (54 and 56).

Ben's father Young Man posted the second lowest gross of the day. The older Bae drilled a 38 on the front and improved his game a bit on the back with a 37 for a gross 75.

Tawanpiy tied Olopai for the third best low gross score of 84 after firing a 41 on the front and 43 on the back, while Stephens and Kosam had identical gross scores of 90.

Stephens recorded a 49 on the front and 41 on the back, while Kosam shot better on the front with a 46 before slowing down on the back with a 44.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Jess Wabol at 233-3673.





## Football coach scouts for U11, U13 players

The ongoing 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League will provide the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association a pool of players who will represent the CNMI in future youth tournaments.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Pierce lifts Celtics past 76ers

The 76ers might be in big trouble in a playoff series with Boston once Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett are back.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Geckos sweep Stormz

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Saipan International School notched its first win in the boys varsity division of the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Basketball League after downing Marianas Baptist Academy, 62-43, Tuesday at the MBA court in Dandan.

Arnold Lee waxed hot from downtown to help the Geckos snap their two-game losing skid. Lee had five triples in the game and finished with 24 points.

Richard Wang added 15 points for SIS, which absorbed its first two losses at the hands of league-leading Mt. Carmel School and Grace Christian Academy.

MBA dropped to a 2-2 record. The Stormz bowed to the MCS Knights and won over Calvary Christian Academy twice.

The Geckos dictated the tempo of the game early with Lee knocking down two triples and Wang also making one shot from be-

yond the arc. Cooper Graf, Josh Borja and Lucas Knecht scored, too for SIS in the first quarter, giving the Geckos a 19-2 lead.

Charlie Jo canned MBA's lone fieldgoal in the first period. Paul Carlo Samson had a chance to make it into the scoreboard in the opening canto, but muffed his two charities.

Samson finally found his mark in the second canto, nailing a triple and a layup, while Jo began piling up points, making eight markers.

The Stormz outscored the Geckos in the second period, 14-8, to cut the lead

to 11 at halftime, 16-27.

Lee was scoreless in the second quarter, but came out smoking, anew in the third period, drilling two more triples. He also performed well from the 15-foot line, going 4-for-6. Lee and Graf were the only two SIS players to score in the third period, which ended with the Geckos still leading by a big margin, 43-27.

After moving within 11 at halftime, the Stormz slowed down in the third, as Jo was held to a free throw and only Seong

Bin Lee notched more than a fieldgoal in that canto.

In the fourth quarter, Jo, who finished with a team-high 20 points, single-handedly carried MBA in his shoulders, scoring nine more points. But his one-man show was not enough to bring the Stormz back into the game and steal the win.

Wang took over from Lee in the fourth period for SIS with the former nailing eight

See GECKOS on Page 26

## Two pairs still unbeaten in IT&E badminton tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



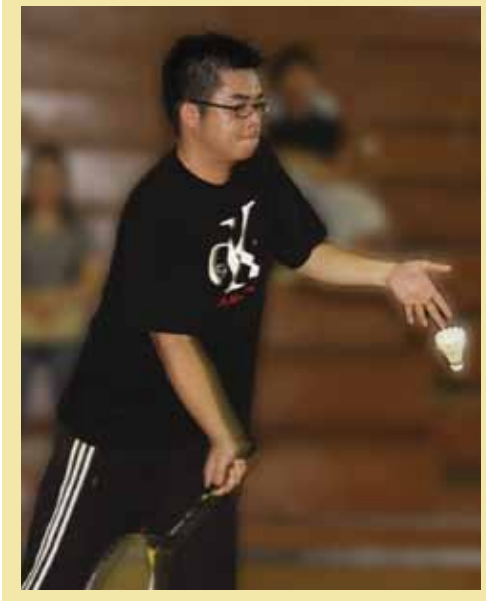
The tandems of Macoi Aguda/Saul Gargallo and Mario Di-

ola/Paul Navarro are assured of playoff slots in the 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament as they remained undefeated after three weeks of competition at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Aguda and Gargallo are unbeaten in seven games to take the solo top spot in the men's A division, while Diola and Navarro hold a perfect 8-0 slate to keep the lead in the men's B division.

The top four teams in the men's A and B division and women's B will advance to the playoffs this weekend, while

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Saul Gargallo serves in one of the games in the 2009 IT&E Badminton Doubles Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

# Vine happy to see XTERRA friends

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER



Making his first trip to Saipan since winning the inaugural XTERRA Saipan Championship seven years ago, Canadian pro Mike Vine says he is happy to see old friends here and meet new ones.

"It was a long trip," said the 35-year-old pro who had done most of his races in the U.S.

Vine said he always wanted to come back, but he had schedule problems in the past.

"Finally, I'm back," said Vine after joining the Tank 2 Tank practice swim near

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NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
Mike Vine, second left, joins three other XTERRA triathletes during a practice swim near Sabalu Market Tuesday. Others in the photo are, from left, Sascha Wingenfeld of Germany, Ulli Kratzer of Austria and Jim McConnel of Great Britain.

## Hustlers crush Fielders, 10-3

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER



The Hustlers crushed the Fielders, 10-3, at the resumption of play in the Big League Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Anthony Aldan pitched for the Hustlers in six and a half innings, giving up 10 hits and

striking out three batters.

On offense, Aldan, who was the lead-off batter, went 2-for-4 and managed to reach third base at best in the bottom of the first, while first baseman JP Lizama was 1-of-3, and made two RBIs in the bottom of the third.

Catcher John Pangelinan came through with two runs in the first and fourth inning on a 3-for-4 at bat, while outfielder Ben Leon Guerrero Jr. was 3-for-3 with two runs in the first and third inning.

Rightfielder Marvin Kaipat was also perfect at bat, going 3-for-3 and scoring two runs in the fourth and sixth inning.

Others who reached home were Giovanni Ayuyu, 2-for-4, with two runs in the first and third, Tony Rogolofoi, 2-for-3, with the teams' lone run in the second, and Delbert Aguon, 2-for-3, with a run in the fourth.

It was the first back-to-back wins for the Hustlers and their third in five games of the season.

Ioanis Rasa started at the mound for the Fielders, giving up six runs on 11 hits by the

See HUSTLERS on Page 26

SIS Geckos' Richard Wang eludes an MBA defender and makes a fastbreak layup during their game in the COP-SSA caging Tuesday at the MBA court in Dandan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

